FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PNC CHAIRMAN REVIEWS AGENDA OF 15 JAN PNC SESSION

JN121046Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Jan 79 pp 1, 13 JN

['Isam Dari dispatch]

[Text] Damascus--Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has stated that President Hafiz al-Asad will open the 14th PNC session at 1700 on 15 January.

Al-Fahum said that the agenda will be made up of the following topics:

1. A discussion of the report submitted by the PLO Executive Committee on the political developments in the Palestine cause and the Middle East issue. The report includes all the positive and negative developments. When we say negative, we mean the policy being pursued by the Egyptian regime and its signing of the Camp David agreements which constitute a blow to the Palestinian struggle and to the issues of Palestine and the Arab nation.

Al-Fahum added: As far as the positive developments are concerned, many of these exist. Above all there is the creation of the pan-Arab Front for Confrontation and Steadfastness, the Syrian-Iraqi meeting and the Baghdad summit conference. During the summit, all the Arab countries collectively rejected the Camp David agreements and their implications. They also collectively stressed the need to adhere to the need for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and to defend the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Al-Fahum continued by saying that the positive developments include the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog which is based on the resolutions of the Arab summits in Rabat and Baghdad. This dialog is aimed at supporting steadfastness in the occupied territories, preventing the liquidation of the Palestine issue and adhering to the need for total withdrawal from Jerusalem and the occupied territories.

The PNC chairman added that a comprehensive discussion of these topics is aimed at adopting resolutions and drafting an integrated work plan to thwart the self-rule plot.

2. A discussion of the PLO's financial status and new budget in light of the Baghdad summit's financial resolutions. The new budget will cover all expenses of the Palestinian struggle and steadfastness in the occupied territories on all levels. The PLO will cover all resistance factions.

3. A review of the organizational and political program that has been approved by all the resistance factions and the PLO Central Council. The program will also be approved by the PNC so it can be implemented.

Regarding Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan to complete the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog, Al-Fahum said that shortly after the PNC meetings brother Yasir 'Arafat will visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at the head of a PLO delegation to meet with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials.

Government-in-Exile Issue Excluded

JN121059Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 12 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 12 January--Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has said that the question of forming a government-in-exile is not included on the agenda of the council's meetings scheduled to begin in Damascus this coming Monday.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS published here today, Al-Fahum said that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, will visit Jordan immediately after the meetings.

Al-Fahum expressed his optimism over the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog regarding the Palestinian issue.

FATAH LEADER DISCUSSES CURRENT PALESTINIAN ISSUES

LD1111Z1Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 5 Jan 79 pp 2, 19 LD

['Abdallah al-Qaq report on press conference held by Khalid al-Hasan, member of Fatah Movement Central Committee, in Kuwait on 4 January]

[Excerpts] Abu as-Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan] began his press conference by referring to an AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM report that certain countries support the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile. He said:

Any liberation movement that reaches the stage of victory is bound to establish a provisional government to supervise the transitional period, the period when occupation is ended and the people take over power. The establishment of such a government before such a stage is of no use or value. Therefore, there is nothing wrong with the idea of a government-in-exile but the declaration of such a government needs to be made at a suitable time, which is still far off as far as the Palestinian revolution is concerned. In fact, I believe that the establishment of a Palestinian government at the present stage would create many problems in the Palestinian arena.

Speaking about the question of linking self-rule to Israeli withdrawal, Abu as-Sa'id said:

Statements by Zionist enemy officials--particularly Begin's statements--and the information available to us on the Israeli attitude in this respect clearly indicate that the idea of withdrawing from territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of a Palestinian state or even real Palestinian self-rule is absolutely rejected by the Zionist enemy. Begin has affirmed to President as-Sadat that there was absolutely no agreement at Camp David on the establishment of a Palestinian state or self-rule in the legal sense. All that was agreed upon was to establish a self-rule administration whose jurisdictions would be defined in advance. Begin reminded As-Sadat of the term "administrative council" incorporated in the Camp David agreement.

All that is being said about an Egyptian hardline of the Palestinian people's rights or the Arab national cause and the conflict with the Zionist enemy is nonexistent. All the indications are to the contrary. As for the question of linking the implementation of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty to the establishment of self-rule, this is a diversionary matter.

With regard to Article Six of the draft Egyptian-Israeli treaty, information available to us indicates that the Egyptian side, with the help of the U.S. side, is trying to produce a vague formula for Article Six that could be subject to a thousand different interpretations. This is a means of countering Arab reaction to the treaty.

Asked about what has been reported regarding Palestinian-Egyptian contacts, he said: Brother Yasir 'Arafat, brother Faruq Qaddumi, the PLO official spokesman, and many statements issued by the PLO Executive Committee have denied that contacts of any sort are taking place with the Egyptian regime. But, unfortunately, we see repetitive Egyptian statements about the existence of such contacts.

I would challenge the Egyptian regime to reveal the nature of such contacts and the names of those who are carrying them out. With regard to the presence of [PLO representative] Sa'id Kamal in Egypt, this is in accordance with a decision by the Executive Committee and the Palestinian leadership (the general secretaries). His task in Egypt is only to watch and listen. Recently it was decided that Sa'id Kamal should leave Egypt and this will happen in the near future.

[Question] Have there been any U.S.-Palestinian contacts recently?

[Answer] There have been no U.S.-Palestinian contacts so far. The U.S. administration has made it a condition that the PLO should recognize Security Council Resolution 242 and Israel's right to existence before there can be an official Palestinian-U.S. dialog. The PLO has rejected this proposal.

I should stress here that the United States must accept an official meeting with the PLO unconditionally. The meeting must be official and not behind the scenes.

[Question] What is your opinion of the Syrian-Iraqi Joint Action Charter?

[Answer] Inasmuch as we hope for the achievement of this charter as a basis for and a strategic step toward restoring the balance with the Israeli enemy as well as a source for restoring the spirit of struggle against the Israeli enemy--particularly since the charter would in practice include the PLO and Jordan in the "confrontation forces"--we, at the same time and in view of our past experience, are afraid that the desired success for the charter will not be achieved.

Here I would like to point to a statement which [Vice Chairman of Iraqi Revolution Command Council] Saddam Husayn made at the end of the Baghdad summit. He said: "The time has come for us not to blame imperialism for our failure. If we fail we are responsible and if we succeed we are responsible. We must succeed. To blame imperialism is to justify failure and evade responsibility, whether such failure is due to lack of understanding of the true method of action or due to allowing hostile forces to operate among us."

PALESTINIAN LEADER ADDRESSES BAGHDAD RALLY; 'AFLAQ ATTENDS

JN111936Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Comrade Naji 'Allush, member of the Revolutionary Council of the Palestine national liberation movement--Fatah--and secretary general of the Palestinian Writers and Journalists Federation, has stated that those who fall and surrender are not fit but to capitulate and that the banner of victory and liberation will remain high and protected by the hearts of the 150 million Arabs from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf. These millions are daily increasing and ever gaining in knowledge, awareness and love for their homeland. They will liberate Palestine.

Mr 'Allush was speaking at the rally held by the Arab Writers Federation in Baghdad in honor of the great Palestinian poet 'Abd al-Karim al-Karmi, known as Abu Salma.

The rally was attended by comrades Michel 'Aflaq, secretary general of the Ba'th Party; Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front; Tariq 'Aziz and 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, members of the Ba'th Party National Command and a large number of Arab writers and journalists.

'ARAFAT CONGRATULATES CASTRO ON REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

JN111906Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 11 Jan 79 JN

["Text" of cable from Yasir 'Arafat to Cuban President Fidel Castro on the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution]

[Text] On the 20th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution under your revolutionary leadership, it pleases me to offer you personally as well as your party, people and government the warmest and sincerest revolutionary congratulations, wishing you in my name and on behalf of the Palestinian people and their armed revolution further success in the service of the Cuban people and the struggling peoples of the world.

On behalf of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, I take this dear opportunity to affirm to you that our struggling and steadfast people will always remain faithful to the principles and objectives of the revolutionary liberation struggle against imperialism, Zionism and their agents in the Middle East region.

Our Palestinian people, who are standing in the Middle East in the frontline trench against the U.S. imperialism and its protege Zionist, racist Israel, are linked to the Cuban people with ties of joint struggle against the common enemy. They are in the same trench against the one enemy in order to achieve joint (?victory), which will inevitably be achieved due to your support and solidarity with the Palestinian people's revolution.

I greet the heroic Cuban revolution and the brave Cuban unity in the face of the most oppressive imperialism history has ever known.

Long live the 20th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution! Long live Palestinian-Cuban friendship!

PALESTINIAN DELEGATION LEAVES FOR HANOI SOLIDARITY MEETING

JN111830Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1730 GMT 11 Jan 79 JN

[Text] A Palestinian delegation has left Beirut for Hanoi to attend the meeting of the Afro-Asian peoples Solidarity Committee scheduled to be held in the Vietnamese capital on (?12) January.

The delegation is led by Co Musa [name indistinct] and brothers Hajj Tala and Maj Yusuf an-Namlah as members.

KUWAIT

PAPER CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY IN FACE OF GULF EVENTS

LD111357Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 9 Jan 79 p 10 LD

[Fahd al-Masa'id article: "The Unaware Gulf and the Surrounding Storms"]

[Text] Events in the gulf region are daily showing that greater dangers are approaching the area and surrounding it. In fact, for geographic, strategic and oil reasons the essence of the conflict involves this area in particular and the question of who is to be the master here or who will have the lion's share.

We have been expecting some move in the gulf that would be equal to such events and take precautions against them, especially since events have proved that no ally is to be trusted. The world rests on interests, particularly in respect to the major powers, which honor no pledge or obligation and protect no ruler or regime.

Perhaps the best example of this situation is what we have seen happening in many of the Third World countries and what we are witnessing now in Iran, where no ally has been of any use and no military might has had any effect. The major powers only care for their own interests and not for individuals, no matter how friendly or praiseworthy such individuals may be.

The recent visit by his highness the crown prince to the gulf states stemmed from the belief by officials that the dangers we are facing threaten not an individual country but all of us. This makes it incumbent upon all of us without exception, to further consult and contact one another in order to erect a genuine wall of solidarity by which we can face this menace to our stability, prosperity and family ties with one another.

Why should we not hasten the erection of such a wall as long as the human and brotherly ties that bind us to one another can enable us to be superior to others?

We do not think there is anything to prevent taking an initial step in this direction, in view of the fact that dangers which we thought would never come have moved so close to our territorial borders and, in fact, within some parts of these borders.

Nothing can protect the small countries except their alliance and unity as one family, unity between the regime and the people as well as between areas of common destiny.

When a small state succumbs, the Security Council hardly bothers to meet for its sake. This was what happened to Cambodia yesterday when it was invaded by a neighboring country with the support of a major power while nobody even showed astonishment.

This goes to show that the security of small states lies in the unity within and among their peoples. This is their safeguard against the multifaceted and numerous intrigues of the big powers.

This applies to the gulf area. It necessitates a close and strong Arab solidarity policy which alone can face the current earthquake and save us from peril.

SAUDI ARABIA

RIYADH RADIO ANNOUNCES U.S. F-15 FIGHTERS TO VISIT

LD112023Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Text] At the invitation of the Saudi Royal Air Force, the U.S. Air Force will send a squadron of F-15 jet fighters to the kingdom for a limited period in mid-January 1979 for the purpose of exhibiting this type of aircraft, which has already been purchased by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The planes will fly to some bases of the Saudi Royal Air Force during their presence in the kingdom. This visit is evidence of the long-standing close relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America.

'UKAZ BLAMES SOVIET UNION FOR VIOLENCE IN AREA

LD101637Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 3 Jan 79 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] The wave of violence currently sweeping Iran and Turkey and which previously swept the Horn of Africa confirms the Soviet Union's persistence in creating tension, generating class struggle and sowing sedition in these areas to achieve its expansionist and aggressive ambitions.

International communism, which sometimes covertly and other times overtly allies itself with world Zionism, is pursuing its basic objectives aimed at assailing the unity of the peoples, destroying their economic resources, spreading moral decay and combating heavenly ideologies in order to insure the realization of its ulterior motives of domination and rule.

The Arab and Islamic nations must be aware of the communist plans to destroy the Muslim man and erase all human values. Communism is against peaceful instincts and against all religions and beliefs. And since communism poses a real danger to all mankind, confronting its conspiracies and exposing its false slogans and misleading allegations must be the duty of all those who believe in one God so that mankind can establish God's law on earth. The reality of the communist role which supports Zionism has become clear to Arabs and Muslims. The current communist moves in other areas have revealed the truth about the communist plans to incite disturbances and encourage rebellion and chaos so that, in such a state of confusion, the communists can take over power.

Communist dangers make it incumbent on all of us to arm ourselves with vigilance and caution and to cling to our religion and beliefs. For adherence to religion and beliefs is the barrier that protects mankind against deviation, thwarts all communist plots and leads to a better life free of anxiety, tension and class struggle. Adherence to religion is the path to love, goodness and peace and leads to the eradication of corruption, barbarism and paganism which communism and Zionism represent.

KUWAITI PAPER: RELATIONS WITH USSR, PRC CONSIDERED

LD111701Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 8 Jan 79 pp 1, 13 LD

[Text] The diplomatic editor writes: Will Saudi Arabia establish diplomatic relations with the PRC in the coming few months, after the question of establishing diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union has become only a matter of time?

This question is now being asked by some Arab and foreign diplomatic circles in Kuwait following indications that the Saudi administration is on the threshold of an important stage of international diplomatic action.

The circles say that the Saudi administration is reevaluating its foreign policy in the light of recent events in Iran and the gulf region, the increasingly negative reaction by the United States and its hesitant attitude and lack of understanding of the area's problems. The Saudi administration has become convinced of the need to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union at this time.

These circles add that the Saudi administration has come to the conclusion that in order to strike a balance in relations with the two superpowers and in view of the international conflict it is necessary to find the means to establish normal relations with the PRC as one of the major powers in our contemporary world.

Despite the fact that no official statement has yet been made regarding the Saudi administration's intention to establish such relations with the Soviet Union and the PRC, a senior Saudi diplomat said that diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union did exist during the era of late King 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, but these were broken following World War II for international reasons. Therefore, he added, the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries would in fact be only a resumption of relations severed in the past.

The Saudi diplomat gave the impression that the decision to restore Saudi-Soviet relations was adopted in principle but, he said, the announcement of the decision depends on internal and international conditions which the Saudi administration will decide.

On the other hand, a senior official in the PRC embassy in Kuwait said that his country wishes to establish relations with Saudi Arabia and is interested in developing and strengthening such relations in all fields.

The Chinese diplomat expressed the hope that the coming stage will witness maximum progress in relations between Beijing [Peking] and Riyadh, but declined to disclose whether contacts are currently taking place between the two countries to establish diplomatic relations between them. The Chinese diplomat said that the PRC's concern is to keep Soviet influence and hegemony away from the Arab area and expressed his country's condemnation of the role the Soviets are playing in inciting disturbances in some countries in the area, such as Iran and Turkey.

UAE

ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ABU DHABI IN MARCH

JN1016487 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1640 GMT 10 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 January--A preparatory meeting was held here today under Ash-Shibah al-Hamili, under secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources. Representatives of OAPEC and several high-ranking officials of the ministry attended. The aim of the meeting is to draw up the arrangements related to the first Arab energy conference, which will be held in Abu Dhabi in March 1979.

The aim of the conference, which is being organized by OAPEC in cooperation with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, is to discuss the issues of energy on the Arab and international levels and to get acquainted with the Arab views on the international situation vis-a-vis energy, as well as to discuss the impact of international developments on the position of Arab energy. All Arab countries and several international institutions concerned with energy affairs will participate in the conference.

YEMEN--PDRY

MINISTER SAYS PDRY WILL MEET ETHIOPIA'S OIL NEEDS

LD111756Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali al-Nashir, member of the Political Bureau and planning minister, has stressed that the developing economic and trade relations between Democratic Yemen and friendly socialist Ethiopia stem from the joint aims of the Yemeni and Ethiopian revolutions and the unity of their struggle against imperialism and for peace, democracy and progress.

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali said this in an interview with the Ethiopian newspaper AS-SILM, which, in view of its importance, was republished today by the Aden newspaper 14th OCTOBER.

The brother planning minister pointed out the historical relations binding the two peoples and the volume of trade exchange between the two countries, whose growth is clearly fixed by the agreements, protocols and reciprocal visits of the two sides.

Regarding cooperation between the two sides in the sphere of oil, brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, member of the Political Bureau and planning minister, said that friendly Ethiopia can rely on Aden's refinery, because our country is making attempts to increase the refinery's capacity from 400,000 tons to 1 million tons, which will provide friendly Ethiopia a guaranteed source of oil derivatives and break the monopoly of foreign companies in the supply of these important commodities.

ISMA'IL SENDS GREETINGS TO NEW CAMBODIAN REGIME

LD111535Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, has sent the following congratulatory cable to Comrade Heng Samrin, chairman of the Central Committee of the Kampuchean National Unity Front for National Salvation and chairman of the People's Revolutionary Council:

Our Yemeni people, led by the YSP, have followed with great admiration the successful struggle and splendid victory of your valiant people. We support the establishment of a peaceful, independent and democratic Cambodia proceeding toward socialism, and we look forward with deep sincerity to strengthening relations between our two countries and to the development of the militant solidarity of our two peoples against world imperialism.

We are fully confident that as you assume the leadership of democratic Cambodia, you will turn the wheel of construction and progress rapidly forward to that the banner of prosperity, happiness and peace may fly aloft in Cambodia. On behalf of the YSP, the Supreme People's Assembly and the Government of the PDRY, we express our warm congratulations on your great victory.

PALESTINE LIBERATION FRONT OFFICIAL ENDS VISIT

ID111638Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Text] Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, left Aden this morning after a week's visit to Democratic Yemen. The delegation held talks with Yemeni Socialist Party officials on the latest developments in the Arab arena, particularly those affecting the Palestinian cause and the militant relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

Brother Tal'at Ya'qub made a statement shortly before departure in which he praised what he had observed: namely, the ideological, political, economic and social developments in the socialist transformations of Democratic Yemen. He declared that the talks he held with Yemeni Socialist Party officials were successful and that agreement had been reached on issues discussed.

Communique on Visit

ID111632Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 10 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Comrade Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], left Aden this morning at the end of a week's visit to Democratic Yemen.

At the end of the PLF delegation's visit today, a joint communique was issued in Aden on the talks held between the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and the PLF. The communique says:

In response to an invitation by the Central Committee of the YSP, a delegation of the PLF, led by Comrade Tal'at Ya'qub, the front's secretary general, and including Comrades 'Ali Ishaq, member of the Central Command and the front's official spokesman, and Abu Saji, member of the Central Council and secretary of the PLF's Foreign Relations Committee, as members, visited Democratic Yemen from 4 to 10 January 1979.

The YSP delegation reviewed the nature of the vicious conspiracies being hatched today by imperialism and reaction in various forms against the masses of the Yemeni people and the special part being played by the agent fascist reactionary regime in San'a' in all the imperialist and reactionary plans in the area aimed at hampering the development of the Yemeni people and their aspirations to freedom, peace and building a unified democratic Yemen.

The PLF delegation expressed its condemnation and denunciation of the despicable conspiracies being hatched by imperialist circles and all the reactionary circles, which aim at increasing tension in the area and embroiling it in fierce civil wars to obstruct the cause of peace and progress of peoples and hamper the march of the Yemeni revolution in particular. The PLF highly appreciated the YSP's policy of bringing about Yemeni unity on sound nationalist and democratic bases and the heroic part being played by the Democratic National Front in the northern part of the Yemeni homeland in its struggle and leadership of the masses of the people to topple the outworn reactionary regime and to realize the Yemeni people's just aspirations to freedom and the building of a unified democratic Yemen.

In these discussions the PLF delegation briefed the YSP delegation on the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly those affecting the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's struggle for their right to self-determination and the restoration of their historic rights to return to their territories and establish their independent democratic national state in the Palestinian land which is being liberated.

The delegation also explained the principal aims and grave dimensions of the treasonable results of the Camp David conference. It exposed the collusive role of Arab reaction which is today trying to turn against the interests of the Arab peoples, and those of the people of Palestine in particular.

The two sides also condemned the capitulatory policy being pursued by the As-Sadat regime and the admission of the Egyptian regime to the reactionary Zionist-imperialist alliance and the continuing repressive policy against the Egyptian nationalist movement. They declared the need to consolidate and develop the role of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to face the reactionary Zionist imperialist onslaught.

Reviewing the situation in the Red Sea region, the two sides affirmed their full support for its transformation into a zone of peace and stability. They condemned the attempts by imperialism and reaction to create the so-called Red Sea security alliance as another conspiratorial link complementing attempts to create a security alliance in the Arab Gulf with the aim of encircling the Arabian Peninsula area with conspiratorial aggressive alliances aimed at striking down the national liberation movement in the area and in neighboring areas.

With regard to the Horn of Africa, the two sides called for the settlement of disputes in this region through peaceful dialog in such a manner as to secure the rights of the peoples of the region. The two sides also condemned the attempts by reaction and imperialism to (?increase) tension in this region.

The two sides also expressed support for the just struggle of peoples of Ethiopia, Angola and Mozambique against reactionary and imperialist aggression, and their solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia for freedom and national independence.

INTERIOR MINISTER WELCOMES RETURNEES FROM YAR

LD111558Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Salih Muslih al-Qasim, member of the Political Bureau and interior minister, has said that the Yemeni Socialist Party and the government of the revolution welcome whoever wants to return to the country and is prepared to defend the homeland and contribute to its development.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY today following the return of a group of misled brothers to the homeland from the northern part of the homeland after harassment and maltreatment at the hands of the ruling regime in San'a', he said the misled returning brothers spoke of the difficult conditions which they had lived through and under which other misled individuals in the northern part of the homeland are living because of the worsening situation there and the maladministration and corruption that exists and eats into the body of the regime, which has created unstable conditions.

The brother interior minister said that people all over the northern part are living in constant and continuing conflict with the agent authority and that the returnees have affirmed that many members of the armed forces in the northern part of the homeland, specifically the nationalists, have rebelled against the agent authority and rejected its orders.

He added: We regret what the sons of Yemen are suffering inhuman treatment by the agent authority in San'a'.

The group of returning brothers includes Lt Mansur (Miq Bas); Private, First class, Muhammad (Bakhur); Private Muhammad Ahmad (ash-Shaybah); Private 'Umayr Muhsin; Private 'Ali Muhammad (Sindah); 'Ali Salih Ahmad as-Sadi and Muhammad Maydarah Ubah.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT TO KUWAITI PAPER

JN100939Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 10 January--A Kuwaiti newspaper published here today said that His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd Al-'Abdallah as-Sabah have accepted an invitation to visit the YAR.

The newspaper AR-RAY'Y AL-'AM has quoted YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj as saying that his present visit to Kuwait yielded positive results and that he discussed with Kuwaiti officials bilateral relations, especially the development projects implemented by Kuwait in the YAR.

Al-Asnaj added that the YAR regrets that the Arab countries have not responded to his country's call for Arab participation in defending the Bab El Mandeb Strait against possible aggression by the Zionist enemy.

On the Middle East, the YAR foreign minister said that the YAR believes that the Camp David agreements do not recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights or constitute a basis for a just and comprehensive solution to the problem.

Al-Asnaj said that the current troubles in Iran are considered to be very dangerous because they can possibly affect the situation in the entire area.

PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER RECEIVE AL-ASNAJ

JN111810Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office today brother 'Abdallah Al-Asnaj, foreign minister, who conveyed to the president a letter from his brother His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. The letter is in reply to the president's letter which was delivered by the foreign minister.

Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani also received the foreign minister, who briefed him on the results of his visit to Kuwait and his talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart. The foreign minister conveyed to him a letter from the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister in reply to the prime minister's letter, which was delivered by the foreign minister.

TRIBESMEN OFFER ALLEGIANCE TO TA'IZZ ARMY COMMANDER

JN111828Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 79 JN

[Text] More than 50 men from the AL-'Alqami tribes arrived at the headquarters of the Ta'izz Army Command today.

The tribesmen are from the Al-Hajariyah subdistrict and were led astray by the Aden ruling clique. The tribesmen were led by Shaykh Sayf Muhammad ad-Dul'uj. He was accompanied by the chieftains and dignitaries of the Al-'Alqami tribe. They were received by brother Maj 'Ali Muhammad Salah, commander of the Ta'izz Army Command, who welcomed them in the name of leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Addressing the tribesmen, the commander said: Destruction and ruin are not in the interest of the country. Your tribe was known for its faith in the country and allegiance to the nation.

The tribesmen affirmed their allegiance to the revolution and the republic and their determination to follow the path of construction and progress led by brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

The Ta'izz commander also received a number of brothers who have fled the various parts of the southern part of the homeland.

TRIBESMEN OF AL-MAHWIT EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT

JN101443Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Al-Qad 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president and speaker of the People's Constituent Assembly, today received Maj Mansur 'Abd al-Jalil, governor of Al-Mahwit District, accompanied by a large number of the chieftains and notables of the district and the surrounding areas. They expressed to the vice president their gratitude and highly valued the government's measures in the central areas of the country, which were taken with aim of getting rid of all saboteurs.

The notables and chieftains expressed gratitude to their brother members of the armed forces and the security forces for their courageous stands in confronting all the puppets who are carrying out the sabotage goals of the Yemeni people's enemies.

The vice president thanked them for their national feelings and extended to them greetings from brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

GHALI REPORTS TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ON ARAB ENVOYS' MEETING

NC111755Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 11 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 January--The foreign relations and Arab affairs and the national security committees of the People's Assembly held a joint meeting this morning to hear Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali deliver a report on the developments in the Middle East, Iran and Turkey, the impact of these developments on the Arab world, and developments in relations with Sudan in particular and with the Arab states in general. At the beginning of the meeting, Dr Butrus Ghali pointed out the importance of taking interest in Egyptian-Arab relations, in working to overcome the crises that have occurred among the Arab states and in bolstering inter-Arab relations. Dr Butrus Ghali said that despite the halt in the Mideast negotiations, the United States is considered a full partner in these negotiations.

In his report at the meeting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali pointed out the Soviet Union's stand of opposing the current Mideast peace efforts and the hesitation of some Arab states to adopt a stand supporting these efforts.

The minister explained that there are three rejectionist axes in the Arab world: an Arab rejection, an Israeli rejection, and a Palestinian rejection. He said: These three rejectionist axes have taken their stands for different reasons. However, they have a common factor: They are all trying as hard as they can to resist any attempt to achieve a comprehensive Mideast settlement on the basis of the two Camp David agreements.

Dr Ghali noted that the Cairo conference of Egypt's ambassadors to the Arab states, which concluded its meetings yesterday, Wednesday, had discussed all these stands. Furthermore, the conference reviewed the reasons for the standstill in the negotiations between Egypt and Israel.

In this respect, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that these reasons are related to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, the establishment of a timetable for withdrawal, and the amendment of some clauses of the agreement--those connected with security obligations, diplomatic representation or the linkage of the withdrawal with autonomy for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Dr Butrus Ghali said that it has been possible to conclude that there will be no diplomatic representation between Egypt and Israel until after the emergence of an autonomy for the Palestinian entity, at least in the Gaza Strip, in view of the existence of some difficulties in the West Bank.

The minister reaffirmed Egypt's rejection of any partial settlement with Israel. He said that Egypt's obligations toward the Arab nation will remain unchanged, pointing out that the ideology of peace needs further explanation. Furthermore, the Arab states need to better understand things.

The minister explained that at their conference, the Egyptian ambassadors had asked that Egyptian media convey calm thinking and a clear viewpoint in the course of their explanation of the peace efforts and of Egypt's stand, because the Arab world is in need of further clarification of the dimensions of these points. This is particularly true because Egypt has moved from military confrontation with Israel to diplomatic and civilized confrontation.

Dr Butrus Ghali also emphasized that Egypt still has great prestige in the Arab world, despite the results of the Baghdad conference. He pointed out that the Egyptian ambassadors were optimistic that Arab solidarity will ultimately overcome inter-Arab differences.

In his report, the minister of state for foreign affairs explained that a technical committee has been formed at the Foreign Ministry to finalize the Arab envoys' proposals, which will then be submitted to President Anwar as-Sadat for implementation.

Concluding his report, Dr Butrus Ghali expressed his hope that this kind of conference for Egypt's ambassadors will continue to be held for the purpose of achieving more coordination, in view of the fact that there are relations in the Arab area that we must view comprehensively.

The report was followed by ample discussions at a closed session between the committee members and Dr Butrus Ghali. After the meeting, Chairman of the Arab Affairs Committee Fawzi al-'Umdah stated that during the discussions held at the closed session the committee emphasized the need for the Egyptian negotiators to adhere to their positions contained in the Egyptian proposals submitted to the United States. The committee also expressed the need for Egypt to continue to play its vanguard role in achieving a comprehensive and just solution of the Arab issue.

Meets With U.S. Ambassador

NC111145Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 11 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 January--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today met with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts as part of the Egyptian-U.S. contacts and efforts to resume the peace talks.

The U.S. ambassador refused to divulge details about the discussions during the meeting to journalists.

AS-SADAT MEETS FISHERMEN, ANSWERS REPORTERS' QUESTIONS

NC111325Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 79 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today toured Nasir Lake today and launched some fishing boats. The fisherman staged a magnificent navigation show during which they hailed the president and shouted "Long live the hero of the crossing."

At the end of the tour, the president met with the fishermen. He made a speech about the increased production during the past 8 months, which amounted to 6,000 tons and is to reach 30,000 tons annually by the end of 1979.

President Anwar as-Sadat asked the fishermen to exert every effort so that the whole Egyptian family may live in prosperity.

A discussion then took place between President as-Sadat and the representative of the fish company. The president decided that the governor of Aswan should form a new fish marketing company that fishermen would participate in. The president said he had no objection to the fish being sold at 20 piasters instead of 18 piasters in Cairo provided that 1 piaster of the new increase be alloted to the fishermen's fund and the other to the fishermen themselves.

The president said that what is important is that each citizen should easily and justly meet his needs in fish. He also decided to form an investigatory committee under the chairmanship of the minister of state for party liaison, Ahmad al-'Aqili, to determine the status of fishermen, fish consumers and the price of fish.

After this, President as-Sadat met with foreign reporters. He said that he is happy to be visiting Aswan, and that the most important problem now facing Egypt is providing food. This, he added, has become problem number one. At the beginning of this month, he went on, we transferred all the powers of the president to the governors to achieve this aim. I will continue to follow up the activities of the governors to realize this aim. We will be able to overcome the food problem during this year and the coming years, but it will take time.

Asked whether he could anticipate the results of the forthcoming Israeli Cabinet meeting, the president said: I cannot, but I can anticipate the U.S. reply, which will reach me through Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil. The president reaffirmed that the peace treaty will be signed sooner or later despite the international problems in the world, East and West. [Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1315 GMT on 11 January adds that "when the reporters repeated the question, pointing out that the United States is waiting for the Israeli reply, President as-Sadat said: This is not my problem. I am waiting for the U.S. reply. Answering a question on the effect of the new Israeli settlements in the West Bank on peace, President as-Sadat said: No comment."]

Asked whether the U.S. reply will depend on the situation in Iran, the president asked: Why should the U.S. reply on this question be connected with the situation in Iran? As I told the congressmen and the U.S. administration, they must not be affected by the Vietnam complex or else they will be giving others freedom to do what they want.

The president praised the policy of the U.S. administration under President Carter, saying: This policy is based on ethics and principles. [The MENA report adds: "asked whether the United States must play a stronger role or use force in the area, President as-Sadat said: There is nobody who wants foreign interference in the area. The United States did this only in the era of the black policy of Johnson, but Carter has changed this. The U.S. policy in the era of Carter depends on ethics, and this policy will win."]

TA NEA REPORTS AS-SADAT'S ULTIMATUM TO CYPRUS GOVERNMENT

NC120636Y Nicosia TA NEA in Greek 12 Jan 79 p 8 NC

[Text] Egyptian President as-Sadat has sent an ultimatum to the Cyprus Government asking for the extradition of the two assassins of Yusuf as-Siba'i. Otherwise, the Egyptian president threatens to proceed with the following:

1. To recognize the so-called "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus."

2. To invite Denktas for an official visit to Egypt and for talks with the As-Sadat government.

3. To establish an embassy in the occupied territories and appoint a charge d'affaires as a first step.

Because of the late hour at which this information was received, it was not possible to find out about the Cyprus Government's reaction to the As-Sadat ultimatum.

Nor has it been learned whether As-Sadat has set any time limit or what will be the fate of the existing rudimentary representation of his country in the free areas following the sad events at Larnaca airport. As is already well known, the Cyprus Government has commuted the death sentence of the assassins of Yusuf as-Siba'i--Samir Muhammad Khadir, aged 28 of Jordan, and Zayid Husayn Ahmad al-'Ali, aged 26 of Kuwait--to life imprisonment.

EGYPT PLANS TO SELL $10 MILLION IN MILITARY EQUIPMENT

TA111721Y Paris AFP in English 1718 GMT 11 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (AFP)--Egypt plans to sell 10 million dollar's worth of military materiel this year, Defence Minister General Kamal Hasan 'Ali said in an interview published here today in the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR. General 'Ali neither specified the type of military goods to be exported, nor their proposed destination. The general categorically denied that Egypt would demobilize its forces as a result of an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. Peace, he said, could signify a force reduction, but a country making a transition from a state of war to a peacetime defence policy needed armed forces ready to move anywhere and at any time. General 'Ali added that Arab influence around the Red Sea must be safeguarded and any attempt by the superpowers to increase their influence there must be thwarted. The independence of this area must be preserved and communist influence around the entrance to the Red Sea must be opposed, General 'Ali concluded.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH UNITED STATES

NC111929Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 11 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 January--At the Ministry of Agriculture today Egypt and the United States signed a technical cooperation agreement on developing ways of planning, implementing and following up agricultural projects and the related necessary studies in Egypt. The agreement was signed for Egypt by Agriculture Minister Dr Mahmud Dawud and for the U.S. side by University of California Director (Dr Robert Reynolds), who is currently visiting Cairo. The agreement includes the formation of an Egyptian-U.S. management board to supervise the implementation of agricultural projects. The agreement specifies the Egyptian share during the 5-year term of the agreement at 3.3 million pounds and the U.S. share at $14.6 million.

PRC TU FEDERATION TO ESTABLISH TIES WITH EGYPTIAN TU'S

NC120937Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0836 GMT 12 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 January--The all-China Federation of Trade Unions has asked to establish friendly relations and cooperation with the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions in fields of mutual interest.

Minister of Manpower and Vocational Training Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad has received a letter to this effect from Ni Zhifu, chairman of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. Attached to the letter were the resolutions of the Ninth General Congress of the federation held in Beijing [Peking] in October, including a resolution stressing the importance of friendly relations between the workers of both countries.

Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, who is also the chairman of the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions, has stated that the federation welcomes the establishment of relations of friendship and cooperation with the workers of China and that it views the Chinese letter with esteem and appreciation.

VICE PRESIDENT DISCUSSES IRAQI-FRENCH RELATIONS

JN111753Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Paris, 11 January--Iraqi Vice President Taha Muyi ad-Din Ma'ruf has declared that Iraq's relations with France are excellent, developed relations. He said: We hope these relations will be an example for relations between the Arabs and the Western world.

In an interview published by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI here today, Vice President Ma'ruf said that France is required to do a lot to create understanding among the states of West Europe of the fairness of our pan-Arab issues and the issues of the Third World.

Vice President Ma'ruf said that President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr's letter to French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing on the results of the Baghdad summit conference was clear and justifiable.

Vice President Ma'ruf asserted that Iraq supports the African liberation movements and their demand for self-determination. He pointed out that Iraq affirms its support for the Eritrean revolution and sides with the Eritrean people in their demand for self-determination on their land.

Vice President Ma'ruf explained that the Iraqi delegation will discuss the development and expansion of joint Iraqi-French cooperation on various levels. He affirmed that Iraq refuses to deal on the basis of barter "since oil has never been an unwanted commodity."

Vice President Ma'ruf said that the development plan in Iraq dictates the policy of our oil production. Consequently, we are employing our resources to achieve the development objectives. Our oil reserves are enormous. However, we are dealing with this reality with a great sense of responsibility.

IRAQI, SYRIAN LABOR UNIONS AGREE ON EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

JN112042Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 11 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 January--The labor federations of Syria and Iraq have agreed on an executive plan for the working program between the two federations. They also agreed to follow up the unification of the two labor organizations in light of the Joint National Action Charter between the two fraternal countries.

According to the executive plan reached today at the end of the meetings between the two sides, a joint supreme leadership committee will be formed. The committee will be made up of the chairmen of the two federations and five other joint committees. These committees are the organizational committee for bilateral, Arab and international relations, the committee on labor legislation, the committee on organization frameworks, the committee on economic action, and the culture and information committee.

The two sides also decided to prepare detailed studies on the phases of unification of the two federations in line with the unionist march between Syria and Iraq.

The executive plan asserts the need to work for consolidating the march and struggle of the Arab labor movement within the framework of the ICATU in a manner that serves the causes of the Arab nation and unifies its stands in the conferences and meetings of the Arab vocational federations. The two sides also decided to unify stands against the monopolist and multinational companies and to submit proposals to form competing Arab companies.

The executive plan calls for conducting comprehensive studies of Arab experts working outside the Arab homeland with the aim of bringing in these experts and benefiting from them in the various fields of development.

The executive plan affirms the need to support the world labor federation and the international labor and vocational federations supporting Arab issues.

The two sides agreed to work for the unification of the labor cultural institutions and to exchange information delegations to cover the activities of the labor movement in the two countries. They also agreed to attend all cultural symposiums on the pan-Arab and international levels.

INDUSTRY MINISTER RECEIVES SYRIAN LABOR DELEGATION

JN111423Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1322 GMT 11 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 January--Revolution Command Council member and Minister of Industry and Minerals Muhammad 'Ayish received here at noon today the delegation of the General Federation of the Workers Trade Unions in fraternal Syria under the federation's chairman, 'Izz ad-Din Nasir.

During the meeting, they reviewed the overall activities of the labor movement in the two fraternal countries and ways to strengthen it to contribute to unifying the organizational frameworks of the two labor unions and strengthen the role of the labor movement by consolidating the scientific basis of their development plans.

AMMAN DAILY WELCOMES NEW IRANIAN POLICY

JN120755Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Jan 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] The Jordanian papers today highlight the new Iranian Government and its role.

Under the headline "Optimism Over the Iranian Role," the newspaper AR-RA'Y writes: The speech by the Iranian prime minister designate before the parliament yesterday adds a new dimension to the Arab-Zionist struggle. This dimension is Iran's move to adopt the Arab position by discontinuing oil supplies to Israel and supporting the Palestinian people until they regain their occupied land and legitimate rights.

Although the features of the new Iranian Government's future are not clear due to the opposition stand, the radical change the prime minister has decided to make in his government's foreign policy constitutes a turning point in Iran's stand toward the Palestinian cause and its views on the Zionist aggression against and occupation of Arab territories.

Bakhtiar's step constitutes a serious setback for the Zionist entity, but it is certain that the expected developments in fraternal Iran will not entail any retreat from this step which has also been adopted by the Iranian opposition.

AR-RA'Y continues by saying that is the events in Iran have obstructed the Camp David wagons from achieving their destination of signing the bilateral treaty, the Arab nation must know how to exploit the new realities dictated by these events by encouraging and supporting the clear and definite Iranian move toward supporting the Palestinian cause and strengthening the ties with the Arab world.

Although the new Iranian Government's position does not cloud our minds regarding Iran's known stands toward the Arab cause, we find ourselves more optimistic now that Iran has moved to the stage of confronting the Israeli aggression with an effective force equal to the Arab force facing Israel.

We hope that the fraternal Iranian people will manage to heal their deep wounds, mend the rift and survive the storms currently sweeping Iran. We are also hopeful that the Iranian people will preserve their national unity and the unity of the Iranian soil so that the fraternal people, who are supporting the Arab nation and its fateful issues, can return to the situation that has existed for centuries.

BRIEFS

LOAN AGREEMENT SIGNED--Amman, 10 January--A loan agreement was signed here today under which the Arab Petroleum Investments Company will offer the Jordanian fertilizer industry company $10 million and 35 million Saudi riyals with a guarantee from the Jordanian Government. [Amman JNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 10 Jan 79 JN]

NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR--Amman, Jan 3--The appointment of Mr Alan Urwick as the new British ambassador to Jordan was officially announced by the embassy here today. Mr Urwick is expected to arrive in the latter half of February. [Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Jan 79 p 3 JN]

JOINT FORCES FIRE ON ISRAELI PLANES OVER SOUTH

JN111410Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1402 GMT 11 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 11 January--The joint forces of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian resistance opened fire at Zionist enemy planes that violated Lebanese airspace over southern Lebanon at noon today. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the joint forces are on a state of alert out of fear of a rightwing-Zionist attack in the next few hours, particularly since several Zionist vehicles have arrived in Bint Jubayl area in the central sector. The INA correspondent further reports that the rightwing forces have kidnaped three citizens from Al-Mansurah in the western sector near the French barricade and took them to an unknown destination.

SARKIS MEETS ADF COMMANDER, AL-JUMAYYIL 11 JAN

NC111300Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] President Ilyas Sarkis this morning received Arab Deterrent Forces Commander Col Sami al-Khatib following Al-Khatib's return from Damascus and his meeting with the Syrian officials to review the outcome of his talks. At 1030 today, President Sarkis received Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. Al-Jumayyil said after the meeting that the Lebanese people are called upon to cooperate in these circumstances since division gives any power the opportunity to harm us. He added that even if the question is not within Lebanese hands or is beyond the will of the Lebanese, the unification of the Lebanese will prevent the implementation of plans sought by non-Lebanese. Pierre al-Jumayyil renewed the call for holding a Christian-Islamic conference for this purpose.

[Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 11 January notes that "after attending the meeting of the parliamentary foreign affairs and defense committees, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss visited the Arab Deterrent Forces Command, where he met with Col Sami al-Khatib following the latter's recent visit to Damascus. The meeting lasted about 1 hour. Answering a question about the nature of his visit to Damascus, Colonel al-Khatib said: I met with Minister Khaddam, Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi and Brig Gen 'Ali Dubah, with whom the general security situation was discussed. The meeting was good and positive, and the Damascus officials showed their readiness and desire to contribute with every step toward the consolidation of stability in all Lebanese territory without exception in order to impose the law and strengthen the state of legitimacy. The political aspects of the talks will be completed with Prime Minister al-Huss during his visit to Damascus on Saturday."]

GOVERNOR CALLS REPORTS ON TIBNIN EXAGGERATED

NC111308Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] The governor of southern Lebanon, Halim Fayyad, today reviewed the situation in various southern areas, particularly in Tibnin. Governor Fayyad held a meeting for this purpose with Ghassan Haydar, the district officer of Tyre and Bint Jubayl, and with the southern gendarmerie commander, Capt As'ad Dahir. The conferees reviewed the latest dispatches received from the Tibnin Garrison. After the meeting, Governor Fayyad said: The reports carried by some foreign news media about the security situation in Tibnin have been exaggerated. The fact is that tension prevailed in the area following previous incidents. However, in the past 48 hours Tibnin has not been subjected to any bombardment and no casualties have been reported in the town. The governor added that the UN Emergency Forces in Tibnin and its outskirts have adopted the necessary measures to hold their positions and that they opened fire to foil an attempted attack from Hula area.

TISHRIN SAYS U.S. ACTING 'HAPHAZARDLY' IN IRAN

JN120927Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Under the headline "Washington Has Not Learned From Experience," TISHRIN comments on the U.S. position toward the events in Iran. The paper says that Washington has not learned a lesson from the events. Washington is acting haphazardly and is employing methods that are no longer capable of changing the course of events or frightening anyone. The squadron of planes that will be sent will not place fear in anyone's heart or confidence in the hearts of cowards. If Washington wishes to control the events in Iran, it will have to send a soldier for each Iranian citizen because all the Iranian people have rebelled against the policy of subservience to the United States, against the implicit alliance with Israel and against a regime that has robbed them of their liberties and is considered by President Carter as an example of stability.

Just as the U.S. military apparatus failed to defeat the Vietnamese people's will, so it will fail to defeat the Middle East peoples' will for liberation and progress. If the United States imagines that stability will be achieved in the area by pushing Israel and Egypt toward signing an agreement hostile to the Arabs, then Washington is deluding itself because it will be destroying its bridges with the Arabs, be betting on a card that no longer is of any use and laying the foundation for new disputes.

The insistence of the U.S. administration on defying the interests and sentiments of the Arabs resembles its defiance of the interests and sentiments of the Iranian people and its ignoring the existing situation in Iran. If the United States continues to ignore the facts in the area and insists on imposing its will and suppressing the will of the people, it will find itself facing events that would run counter to its interests and that it could not check, direct or supervise.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES LEBANESE NATIONALIST DELEGATION

JN111416Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 11 January--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received at noon today a Lebanese Nationalist Movement delegation comprising Tawfiq Sultain, George Hawi, Muhsin Ibrahim, Albert Mansur, In'am Ra'd, Samir Subh and Rafiq Abu Yunis.

During the meeting, the latest developments in Lebanon were discussed.

BA'TH DELEGATION LEAVES FOR PARTY TALKS IN ATHENS

JN111430Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 11 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 11 January--An Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade George Saddiqni, national command member, left Damascus this morning for Athens in response to an invitation from the Greek Pan-Hellenic Socialist Union Party, PASOK. The visit aims at consolidating the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between both parties and strengthening their joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

During its visit, which will last about 1 week, the delegation will hold talks with the leaders of the friendly party on matters of mutual concern, particularly recent events and developments in the region.

Both sides are also expected to sign a new cooperation agreement.

ALGERIA

BITAT ADDRESSES COMMITTEE PREPARING FLN CONGRESS ON TASKS

LD111523Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 4 Jan 79 p 3 LD

[APS report on Algerian head of state Rabah Bitat address to National Liberation Front (FLN) Congress Preparatory Committee: "It is a Historic Congress That Will Be Held in the Coming Weeks"]

[Text] Algiers--On the occasion of the inauguration of the FLN Congress Preparatory Committee, head of state Rabah Bitat delivered the following speech (translated):

Dear brothers and sisters, the divine power decided that our brother President Houari Boumediene be wrested from his country at a time when the task of building our institutions is as yet incomplete.

Indeed, following the debates on the National Charter and its adoption, following the election of our lamented Houari Boumediene to the presidency of the Republic, following the election of a national popular assembly and lastly following various congresses of mass organizations, the last stone of the institutional edifice should have been the congress of our party, the FLN.

Following the retrospective views on television over the past few days, I have been personally struck by the importance that the departed president attached to the FLN congress to be held in 1979.

But as I was just saying, the divine power decided that the FLN congress would be held in the absence of our brother Houari Boumediene and would discuss the problems posed by his sudden demise.

It is therefore a historic congress that will be held in the coming weeks--a historic congress in more than one respect. There seems to me to be no point in dealing now with the problems raised by the reorganization of the party or the summoning of its leaders. That is an issue of prime importance which I will tackle when the time comes and which, you may be sure, I will tackle as an FLN member. History will tell us what it will retain from the sessions and decisions of the coming congress. But the most important thing now is for our congress to assemble and for us all to be able to express ourselves frankly and sincerely.

How could it be otherwise? How could one imagine a process of discussing the grave political problems of the time outside the context of the FLN congress, when we have fought for our independence and have devoted ourselves to the task of national construction under the FLN banner?

Only those who are unaware of our people's great resources and their leaders' maturity could have envisaged different situations from those defined for us by the National Charter.

Dear brothers and sisters, following our president's demise, the Algerian people have decided unanimously to continue the task begun in all fields. Our responsibility as leaders lies in organizing the continuity of government. The country's political leadership has decided to entrust the responsibility for working on preparations for the FLN congress to a national committee. As members of this committee it falls to you to make your contribution as FLN members to tackle the problems which must be dealt with.

I am convinced that each of you will give of his best to insure the most efficient preparation of the issues to be dealt with by the congress. I declare the congress preparatory committee inaugurated and I wish you full success in your work.

CONGO PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

LD112120Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Summary] Joachim Yhombi-Opango, president of the People's Republic of the Congo, arrived in Algiers this afternoon on an official visit. He was welcomed at the airport by Rabih Bitat, the head of state, members of the Council of the Revolution, foreign ambassadors and others. President Yhombi-Opango is accompanied by his wife and a delegation consisting of Col Denis Sassou-N'guesso, the vice president of the republic [position as heard], Foreign Minister Theophile Obenga and others.

LIBYA

ECONOMIC COOPERATION TALKS WITH BULGARIA BEGIN

LD111857Y Tripoli JANA in English 1804 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The ninth session of the Libyan Arab-Bulgarian Committee for Economic and Social Cooperation opened at the Foreign Secretariat in Tripoli today.

The meetings are led by the Jamahiriyah trade secretary, Abu Bakr ash-Sharif, and Bulgarian Minister of Building and Building Materials Ivan Sakarev.

The committee will discuss bilateral cooperation and the drawing up of a programme to consolidate relations between the two countries as well as reviewing the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations passed during the committee's second session.

JALLUD RECEIVES YAR'S UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

LD111826Y Tripoli JANA in English 1758 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud received Mr Ahmad Muhammad al-Haydar, North Yemen's Foreign Under secretary, at the People's Palace this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by the Jamahiriyah's foreign under-secretary.

GAMBIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

LD120000Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Gambian External Affairs Minister Kiti Jabang left Tripoli yesterday, Thursday, at the end of a few days visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah during which he discussed the bolstering of relations between the two friendly countries.

The minutes of the meeting of the joint Gambian-Libyan Arab Committee on Cultural and Economic Affairs were also signed. It was decided that the two countries would set up a joint agricultural committee.

MAURITANIA

AFP INTERVIEWS GOVERNMENT LEADER SALECK

LD112224Y Noukchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Text] In an important interview with the AFP correspondent in Nouakchott, on the question of the Western Sahara, Lt Col Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of the government, said we have a responsibility toward the Tiris el-Gharbia Province which we administer. We have to shoulder this responsibility in accordance with the UN resolutions. Mauritania will fully comply with these resolutions.

Unless a solution acceptable to all the parties concerned is reached, he added, Mauritania is determined to settle the Sahara question at its own level according to its capabilities.

As to the POLISARIO's position toward the likelihood of holding a referendum in Tiris el-Gharbia, Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck said the POLISARIO must express its views on the matter.

Replying to a question about the contacts between Mauritania and the POLISARIO, he said that Mauritania and the Saharan movement have their own stands. A review of these stands by the two sides will enable them to get to the true facts. However, the outcome is the important thing. As to the readiness manifested by Mauritania for the improvement of its relations with Algeria, he said that the improvement of relations between the two countries was one of our primary objective in the 10 July movement. He added that the 10 July movement aims at extending Mauritania's hand to those and those, [as heard] contrary to what the defunct regime had been doing.

He asserted that any improvement of relations between Mauritania and Algeria will not have any negative effect whatsoever on the relations between Nouakchott and Rabat. He said that as far as we are concerned, we do not seek to cause any change in our cooperation with that fraternal country. He added: We believe that relations among neighboring countries must not depend on the Western Sahara problem. However, if things demand this, then the problem must be tackled by the three parties in addition to the people of the Western Sahara. Our policy aims at resuming and bolstering our relations with all the countries and peoples surrounding us. As the French aid to Mauritania, he said: It has no [word indistinct] character. It must not be taken as an indication of a return to imperialism.

Finally, Ould Mohamed Saleck referred to the ending of the flights of French Jaguar planes over Mauritanian territory and said he does not think that this measure aims at ending military cooperation between Paris and Nouakchott, but that it will take other forms such as equipping, training and maneuvers.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN APPOINTS NEW SAHARA AFFAIRS AIDE

LD111101Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 3 Jan 79 p 1 LD

[Excerpt] Marrakech, 3 January--At the Marrakech royal palace yesterday morning His Majesty Hassan II received Khali Hanna Ould Rachid, whom he has appointed prime minister's secretary of state for Saharan affairs.

LE MATIN EXAMINES BOUMEDIENE SUCCESSION

LD111401Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 2 Jan 79 pp 1,3 LD

[Mustapha Sehimi article: "Boumediene's Difficult Succession--'Doves' and 'Hawks'"]

[Text] Can better positions be expected from Boumediene's successors as far as future relations between Algeria and Morocco are concerned? In other words, will the present Algiers team be a team of "doves" or "hawks" in this respect? The problem is important, but I believe that it cannot be correctly examined unless the exact nature of the Algerian regime is realized. This is because domestic and foreign policy is probably more related in Algeria than elsewhere.

Boumediene--A Personal Commitment

To begin with, it must be stated that the considerable deterioration which has taken place in Moroccan-Algerian relations has largely been a result of a personal commitment by the late Algerian head of state. Since he relied on the good will of Francoist Spain, his entire approach was called into question by the Green March and the acceleration of the process which enabled Morocco to recover its Saharan provinces. Since then, Boumediene took all possible steps both in the country and abroad to undermine Moroccan and Mauritanian sovereignty over the Sahara which was formerly under Spanish control. We now know that serious "opposition" within his own government prevented him from carrying his warmongering plans through. First of all, Algerian opinion was unable really to understand the real reason behind the quarrel with Morocco despite the fact that it was being continually bludgeoned by state propaganda. Nor did People's National Army [ANP] officers, most of whom has remained true patriots, approve of the late head of state's aggressive tactics. On the contrary, they made it clear that they had reservations, to say the least, on this score. And, finally, many dignitaries within the governing team rightly believed that Algeria had better things to do than engage in an "uncertain struggle" in support of a "doubtful cause." All in all, even though they accepted in a pinch the principle of support for the so-called POLISARIO, they were rather in favor of reducing this support and eventually "dedramatizing" relations with the Kingdom of Morocco. Realizing these difficulties, Boumediene further emphasized his personal involvement in the matter.

The military commander of the region was deprived of its southern part which was entrusted to a close friend of Boumediene, Slimane Hoffman, who was military commander at Tindouf in 1976-1977.

Likewise, the Sahara problem was entrusted abroad to Boumediene's confidants rather than to the traditional diplomatic apparatus. In practice, even Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika was no longer entrused with the task of dealing with the problem. Will Boumediene's death lead to any significant change, if only because he is no longer there to provide the necessary impetus?

At first sight, it is possible to reach such a conclusion. However, this becomes less certain if you consider the existing relation between domestic and foreign policy.

Substitute Legitimacy

Mohamed Boudiaf and Ait Ahmed--to mention only them--are right at least about this point: The Algerian people have not really exercised their sovereignty since 1962. The people have been unable to genuinely exercise their right of free choice. To put it in another way, the legitimacy of the government is still to be established in Algeria. In default of any freely expressed concensus, the Boumediene regime whose creation had, in any case, been viciated by original sin--the 19 June 1965 coup--had no alternative but find--in compensation as it were--some kind of "substitute legitimacy" in the sphere of foreign policy. The maximalism of the Algerian foreign policy is largely a result of the precariousness of the existing system. Far from being established on a truly democratic basis, the Algerian regime relied mostly on its foreign policy for the means which would enable it to endure. This attitude had two advantages. On the one hand, it gave precedence to international problems (north-south dialog, OPEC and new economic order) over national problems. And, on the other, it concealed the contradictions of the Algerian political system by discrediting all those who took the risk of tackling more immediate problems--democracy, institutions, human rights and so forth.

In addition, yet another element was necessary to insure that this external legitimacy find its optimum dimension--a threat at the borders. For the past 13 years, Algerian propaganda has insisted on fostering the idea of some ficticious "threat" to the "Algerian revolution". In any case, every time the regime was faced with any especially difficult problem, some "plot" opportunely diverted the attention of the unexpectedly politically aware Algerian public opinion.

Toward an Explosion?

Has a new situation been now created? Yes, but only with respect to a normalization of Moroccan-Algerian relations which everybody wants. In fact, three factors make it possible to reach such a conclusion: first, the grotesque affair of an arms drop over Cap Sigli on 10 December, which was disclosed a week later.

Because of the contradictions and inconsistencies in the statements made by Algiers officials, they were received with skepticism by the international press and governments.

It was a plot hatched by military security which had two ends in mind. First, it wanted to prevent any unrest in Kabylia at a time when, as a result of Ait Ahmed's activities abroad and certain incidents in that region, the worst was to be expected. And, second, it was a question of insuring "mobilization" at a time when several heirs apparent were vying with one another for the succession.

Simultaneously, this operation made it possible to influence the balance of forces which was taking shape at that time--it played into the hands of the warmongering faction as opposed to more peaceful men. It served the interests of the "hawks'" faction and damaged those of the "doves'" faction.

The second factor is the rejection of Morocco's request to send a delegation to Boumediene's funeral. The lack of decision to reject the request--a refusal contrary to Islamic tradition--was adopted. It also showed that the "warmongering" faction apparently wants to pursue Boumediene's policy which took the form of acts of aggression.

Finally, it contradicts the latest steps taken by Boumediene last summer which were to result in a meeting between him and the king in Brussels on 25 November.

For the sake of peace in the Maghreb, when referring to this "summit" the king deliberately switched over from "secret diplomacy," in which preparations for this meeting were wrapped up, to "open diplomacy." In fact, it was essential for the latest intentions of the late head of state to become generally known.

Logically, his successors, who have sworn to remain faithful to his memory, should be bound to pursue the efforts begun a few months ago.

However, it is rather feared that--let us admit this--events could take a different turn. All the information received seems to indicate that Col Mohamed Salah Yahyaqui will probably be appointed Boumediene's successor.

This promises neither democratization in Algeria nor detente in its relations with Rabat. He is both pro-Soviet (it is he whom Boumediene used to send on regular missions to Moscow) and pro-Libyan (he claims to be Al-Qadhahdfi's friend) and, furthermore, can count on the support both by Merbah's and Slimane Hofman's military security and by many soldiers.

Since he lacks both Boumediene's personality and his skill, and since he has no legal standing except that conferred on him by the fact that he is a product of the regime, he will be faced, if this hypothesis proves true, with many problems in the coming days--the economic situation, social unrest, sharp price increases, redistribution of power within the regime, pressures by the opposition and so forth.

Since he cannot be a man of detente and peace, he will naturally be inclined to adopt an active policy, finding a panacea, and this policy cannot completely rule out some adventurist policy.

This means that the usual scenario of Algerian regimes would reappear--external activism would serve as a catalyst in the absence of domestic consensus. Therefore, let us hope that there will be no reason to miss Boumediene--the Boumediene who was to go to Brussels on 25 November 1978.

PRIME MINISTER AHMED OSMAN BEGINS VISIT TO GABON

For Rabat reportage on the official 3-day visit to Gabon of Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman and his delegation, see the Central Africa section of the 11 January and subsequent issues of the Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA MAKES STATEMENT ON RETURN FROM MEDICAL TREATMENT

LD111640Y Tunis TAP in English 1515 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Jan 11, (TAP)--"I fix an appointment with you for the next party congress and for new tours in the country. Bourguiba is always equal to his task and there is no need to bother about his state of health", President Bourguiba declared upon his arrival Wednesday afternoon in Tunis after his two month and a half stay in Western Germany.

"For two months and a half, I had been away from my people and I missed him [as received] as this happens whenever I leave him for health reasons. I'm eager to see him again. I had been during my stay in Germany always informed about what was happening in Tunisia through the dailies and publications our ambassador in Bonn, Driss Quiga, provided me with.

"I come back today, after a complete recovery. I should like to thank the German federal authorities for the cordial welcome they granted me, the president of the Republic. Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Wichnewski, our long-time friend, came to see me.

"My thanks also concern the doctors who look after me, particularly Dr Hubert, Dr Maz and Mrs Gross who insisted upon accompanying me to the car that took me to the airport.

"I studied, during my stay, the projects for 1979, which will be carried out and those that will be withdrawn for financial reasons.

"I then drew Hedi Nouira's attention on the importance of setting up a chemical fertilizer factory which will play a great role in improving our trade balance. Hedi Nouira thought of the same thing. He did keep the carrying out of this project. [sentence as received]

"I should like finally to thank all the Tunisians who have come to welcome me and celebrate my coming-back."

President Bourgiba was cordially, heartily greeted by the crowd who took place [as received] on the airport terrace fully decked with flags and portraits of the head of state and his wife.

The head of state was also acclaimed all the way along from the airport to the Carthage presidential palace, by the citizens who came in a large number to welcome their leader.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO'S POLITBURO HOLDS ORDINARY MEETING

LD111350Y Algiers APS in French 0700 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] The liberated territories--the POLISARIO Political Bureau held its ordinary periodical meeting on 2 and 3 January under the chairmanship of Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz, the front's secretary general, and discussed the results of the past year and the basic course in the next stage.

The statement issued about this meeting also refers to the study of the particularly grave international situation because of the escalation of the colonialist, reactionary, Zionist and racist plots in both the Mashirq and the Maghreb, and also to the situation arising from the great loss which startled the world--the loss of the Arab, African and the Third World leader, the fighting hero President Houari Boumediene.

The statement also referred to the positive results placed on record by the Saharan resistance on the international level, as interpreted by the UN General Assembly's resolution adopted during its 33rd session. The statement said that the new year will be a turning point of extreme importance in the struggle of the Saharan people.

The POLISARIO statement also dealt with the loss of President Boumediene. It pointed out that the attempts to strike at and change the Algerian revolution and sow dissent and doubt about the unity of the people of 1.5 million martyrs and about their adherence to the course drawn up by the great martyr Houari Boumediene--the symbol of freedom and courage in defending all just issues in the world as well as the symbol of intransigence regarding the principle of the Algerian revolution--will remain futile.

The statement added that the people of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR], who are now in a state of mourning, reaffirm their determination to continue the struggle until total liberation and the building of the Maghreb of the people. They also renew their total solidarity with the Algerian people in these difficult and sad circumstances.

The statement said that the Political Bureau also condemns the Ras Sighli operation and expresses its sincerest wishes for the total success of the National Liberation Front Congress in achieving all that the great fighter, the late president, had aspired to and all that the revolutionary forces had expected from him.

The statement then noted that the Political Bureau expresses its solidarity with the Iranian democratic forces and condemns the imperialist plots hatched in Lebanon with the object of liquidating the Lebanese patriotic forces and the Palestinian revolution.

The imperialist strategic policy, based on aggression, threatens world peace and security and hinders the search for every peaceful and just solution to the problems of our continent and our Arab nation.

The statement said that the various means which the enemy is resorting to in using various types of weapons and in turning to foreign forces will only sink him deeper and deeper into defeat. The operations of El Aaiun, Bu Craa, Ghard Lahmar, Zak, Bir Enzaran and Aglet el Bal, are the most convincing evidence.

The statement pointed out that the Political Bureau of the POLISARIO also deals with the successes which the Saharan issue has achieved in the diplomatic arena on the international level, as well as the recent statement by the Mauritanian head of state. It considers that the return of our occupied territories to the SDAR authorities and the fraternal cooperation and peaceful coexistence established on the basis of mutual respect alone are bound to distinguish doubtful statements from encouraging actions.

The statement added that the Political Bureau reaffirms the need to establish a just and lasting peace at least between the SDAR and the Republic of Mauritania and addresses the final appeal to the Mauritanian leadership and people to start official and final negotiations for ending the occupation, and for the return of that part of our territories occupied by Mauritania to SDAR authorities, and the withdrawal of the forces of occupation behind the borders of Mauritania as established in 1960.

The Political Bureau firmly asserts this clear and legitimate stand and declares that the wish of the Saharan people is to find a similar, just and peaceful solution with the fraternal Moroccan people basically centered on respect of sovereignty and the sacred nature of the borders inherited at independence.

In conclusion, the Political Bureau appealed to the committee emanating from the Khartoum summit, which is dealing with the question of the Western Sahara, to ask for the convening of the emergency summit of the OAU with the participation of the principal party concerned, namely the POLISARIO.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON RESUMPTION OF PEACE TALKS

TA111201Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin says that the negotiations for peace should be renewed as soon as possible, but at the same time it is necessary to be patient to prepare for such a progress in a way that will bring about the signing of a peace treaty with Egypt. Begin emphasized that one should not be entrapped in a feeling of pessimism and that neither could one hurry to reach negative conclusions because both parties decided to resume the negotiations for peace.

Israel's signing the Camp David accords constitutes a commitment which will be fully honored.

The prime minister was speaking at a meeting with a delegation of British members of the Conservative Party.

Begin pointed out that Israel is a stable democratic country in a region where there are developments which endanger the free world. He remarked that developments in Iran may change the regional strategic situation. Begin praised Britain's stand toward Israel during the EEC deliberations.

Our political correspondent says that the head of the British delegation, Michael (Fiedler), brought Mr Begin a congratulatory message from Tory leader Margaret Thatcher.

JERUSALEM SKEPTICAL OF QUICK RESUMPTION OF PEACE TALKS

TA111258Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 11 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpt] In spite of Begin's statement today, though, Jerusalem and political sources did not see a quick resumption of the talks. News analyst Arye Haskel looks at the reasons.

Following yesterday's meeting between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, the consensus among informed sources here in Jerusalem is that nothing has basically changed and that the ball is still with the Americans.

The basic problem, it appears, is Washington's fear that if new talks between the sides are not properly prepared, they could fail and thus, if not put an end to the peace process altogether, throw its continuation into question.

The Americans are, therefore, laying great stress on the need for having the main stumbling blocks between the sides removed before calling them together again. Although nothing has been said on the official level beyond the fact that the cabinet will, on Sunday, discuss the latest Egyptian position as outlined to Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan by Lewis, it is known that Cairo has not budged appreciatively.

The Egyptian stand on Article VI remains unchanged. The treaty with Israel would not have preference over Egypt's inter-Arab defense commitments in the event of Israel's attacking another Arab country. This position apparently has the backing of Washington despite Israel's maintaining that in the Arab view Israel was the aggressor in all previous Israel-Arab wars, including even the Yom Kippur War.

Similarly, Egypt has not moved away from its demand that there be clear linkage between the bilateral treaty and the West Bank and the Gaza autonomy issue, including the setting of a specific target date. In his talks with Begin and Dayan, Lewis made it clear that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will not be availabe for a trip to the Middle East in the near future, largely because of his commitments to other burning issues, such as the Iranian crisis.

And Israel made clear to him its preference to have the next round of talks held in the Middle East rather than in Washington, because close proximity to the two governments makes decision-making that much easier and quicker.

BURG CALLS FOR REASSESSMENT OF U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

TA111205Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Jan 79 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg said about an hour ago that it is necessary to reassess Israeli-U.S. relations in the light of developments in Asia. He says that it is necessary to conduct a constructive dialog between the United States and Israel.

Dr Burg was speaking at a MAFDAL municipal meeting, and our correspondent Dan Eshel brings excerpts from his remarks:

I think that we have not yet made an exact and in-depth assessment of the implications of the changes in U.S. policy toward allies. The attitude toward an ally is one of the most important things: if there is understanding, this understanding can only exist when there is also mutual trust. Mutual trust can occur when you know that even in difficult times your friend will be at your side.

I think that in the book of Hasidism I read that a brave man is tested in trying times, whereas a friend is tried during times of troubles. Now let us, along the same lines, see what happened to Taiwan-Formosa, a faithful ally of the United States for over 30 years; it is still not clear to me what has happened in Cambodia even though it is obvious that the Russians are satisfied while the Chinese are not; it is very clear what is being consolidated in Iran and it seems to me that the ones who should be the first to search their souls are the Americans, and they cannot be angry with us for wanting to reassess the international situation--especially on the Asian continent and the Middle East--together with them.

JOHANNESBURG PAPER: IRAELI INTELLIGENCE CITES CIA INFLUENCE IN IRAN

TA121044Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Jan 79 TA

[Text] A Johannesburg newspaper reports that Israeli intelligence officials have said that the CIA pressured Iran to stop oil sales to South Africa and Israel in an attempt to calm the opposition's fury at the United States. The newspaper does not specify who these officials are, but it writes that the Israeli intelligence agents were surprised that the new Iranian cabinet acts against these two countries when, in fact, the main problem is the continuation of Iran's national existence.

The newspapers writes that the opposition leaders in Tehran claim that the United States was exploiting Iran's oil reservoirs.

DAYAN REPORTEDLY INITIATED DECISION ON NABULUS SETTLEMENT

TA110944Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Text] It was Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who proposed the concluding formulation which will guarantee that Gush Emunim can settle in the Nabulus area. This proposal by the foreign minister, which regards the Nabulus nucleus of Gush Emunim as entitled to settle in the area but leaves the right to decide on the exact site of the settlement and the date of its being put into operation in the government's hands, was passed with the agreement of the majority. [paragraph continues]

Two ministers, Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin and Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich, requested that their reservations on this decision be noted.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin supported the decision, for the reason that for some time now there has been a cabinet decision to establish a settlement in the area and the Nabulus nucleus has been waiting for it to be implemented. However, he was opposed to the way in which the settlers have been behaving toward the government.

Minister Sharon, who apparently worked behind the scenes to persuade the prime minister and the cabinet members to come to an understanding with the settlers, helped by the minister of education and culture, Zevulun Hammer, claimed that the site was important for settlement from the security viewpoint.

LABOR PARTY CRITICIZES DECISION ON NEW W. BANK TOWN

TA111530Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The Labor Party calls on the government to cancel its decision to establish a Jewish town east of Nabulus, since this is politically a harmful decision. The Labor Party states that the cabinet's decision runs counter to Israel's security needs, damages the peace process and complicates the solution of the Palestinian problem, and may also present Israel as an anti-peace factor in the world.

WEIZMAN MEETS HEBRON MAYOR, QIRYAT ARBA' SETTLERS

TA111533Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman today conferred with a delegation from Qiryat Arba' and with Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi on the question of regulating prayers in the Makhpella Cave. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari says that it seems that the defense minister has not made a final decision regarding the dispute.

Our correspondent has learned that the defense minister told Hebron's mayor that a way must be found to satisfy everyone in line with the arrangements made 4 years ago for prayer in the Makhpella Cave. Al-Qawasimi responded to this by saying that he does not know about these arrangements since he was not the mayor of Hebron at that time. In any case, he said he is not authorized to decide anything regarding the regulation of prayers in the cave. This is exclusively in the hands of the Supreme Muslim Council in East Jerusalem. The defense minister asked the Hebron mayor to help in maintaining peace and order in the town.

WEIZMAN TO DISCUSS MAKHPELLA CAVE ISSUE WITH BEGIN

TA111537Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The defense minister will decide on the arrangements for prayers in the Makhpella Cave next week after he meets with the prime minister. The defense minister said this to a Qiryat Arba' delegation that conferred with him in Hebron. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that 'Ezer Weizman met with Hebron's mayor on this matter, asking his help in maintaining peace in the town. Al-Qawasimi told him that he is not authorized to interfere in the regulation of prayers since this issue is in the hands of the Supreme Muslim Council in East Jerusalem.

POST REPORTS ON SECRET MEETING BETWEEN WEIZMAN, HUA

TA120808Y Jerusalem POST in English 12 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[Text] London (JTA)--Sources in London said yesterday that China's recent softening of its hostile attitude towards Israel may be a consequence of secret meetings last summer between Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua.

The sources said they believe the two met briefly outside Zurich in June, while Huang was on his way back from Zaire. At that time Weizman made a stop at Zurich on his own way back from a mysterious trip to London, where he had reportedly met with Lord Victor Rothschild on Defence Ministry affairs.

Huang had earlier met with Hayim Herzog in New York when the two men were their countries' representatives at the UN, the sources said.

SOURCES DENY WEIZMAN MEETING WITH PRC FOREIGN MINISTER

TA120810Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[Text] This morning authoritative sources denied the report emanating from London that Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman met last summer with the Chinese foreign minister. The sources said: "We wish it were true."

LIBERAL PARTY NOTES UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR EHRLICH

TA111935Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The Liberal Party Executive this evening unanimously condemned the publications which, it said, present a distorted picture of the mood current in the party. According to the Liberal Party Executive these publications are aimed at sowing the seeds of a split in the Likud and harming the status of the Liberal Party leader Simha Ehrlich. The executive reiterated its decision of last month to support Simha Ehrlich.

NEW ARMORED CORPS COMMANDER APPOINTED

TA111049Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Today Brig Gen Amnon Reshef was appointed commander of the armored corps and was promoted to the rank of major general. He will replace Maj Gen Moshe Peled, who is leaving to pursue advanced studies.

INTERIOR MINISTRY TO SET UP REDEPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

TA121130Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The Interior Ministry proposes setting up an interministerial body to discuss and coordinate pertinent activity when the IDF redeploys in the south. The director general of the ministry, Hayim Kubersky, issued a memo to this effect for his colleagues in the other ministries. He said that the district commissioner of the southern district has been instructed to issue decrees to stop work each time it is discovered that work has been started without permission.

PRIME MINISTER BAKHTIAR PRESENTS NEW CABINET

TA111609Y Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 11 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, 11 Jan (AFP)--Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar presented his new cabinet, minus four ministers, to parliament today and said he was determined to open the way to "free elections."

In a last-minute appointment, General Shafaqat was named war minister following the refusal of General Feredun Jam to take the defence portfolio.

Among the reports circulating on the reasons for Gen Jam's refusal to join the cabinet, the most likely version was that he had failed to obtain enough guarantees to give him effective control over the army.

Gen Shafqat, who was trained at the Saint Cyr Military Academy in France, is reputed to have established good contacts with all sectors of opinion. He is deeply loyal to the shah, whose military staff he headed. In February last year he succeeded in defusing the situation in Tabriz in the northern province of Azarbayjan where riots marking the start of the Iranian crisis first erupted. He was appointed provincial governor there.

A career soldier, Gen Shafaqat is said to be skilled in diplomacy. He has certainly not received, nor according to observers requested, control over the chiefs of staff, at the nerve centre of the army and directly linked to the shah, as Gen Jam appeared to have demanded.

The cabinet-army link is an essential question in terms of Mr Bakhtiar's credibility in his new post. In the debate scheduled to follow the presentation of the new cabinet, he could bring to light further details on this subject.

According to unconfirmed reports, the shah has appointed a secret council of high-ranking military officers charged with protecting him and ensuring his safe return to Iran at the end of his mooted stay abroad, announced as being for health reasons.

Meanwhile, Mr Bakhtiar today confirmed that the SAVAK secret police force is to be dissolved, that corrupt officials are to be brought to justice, that censorship is to be abolished, and that martial law is to be systematically phased out. Sixty-eight political prisoners were today released under new measures.

The new prime minister stressed that he needed only a minimum of time to start applying his new programme. He said that the judicial authorities and the universities were to be independent and that he would collaborate with Iranian religious leaders. On foreign policy, he repeated that Iran would sell no more oil to Israel and South Africa and that his government would work towards reestablishing the rights of the Palestinians.

As the prime minister spoke in Parliament, the situation throughout the country appeared unchanged, with the major sectors of the economy paralysed by strikes. Small anti-shah demonstrations erupted in Tehran.

TEXT OF BAKHTIAR's 11 JAN STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

ID112100Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 79 ID

[Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar's government statement at an extraordinary session of the Majlis on 11 January--recorded]

[Text] Pray to the almighty to help me--in these crucial times for my country and in this sacred place whose atmosphere resounds with the voices of self-sacrificing men of valor--to utter not a single word unless it be in the interest and for the good of the people and unless it be truthful and honest.

Honorable speaker of the Majlis, ladies and gentlemen: In the history of our ancient country, which has seen a great many ups and downs, there have been dark periods which, if we study carefully, have been often the result of a conquest by aliens during their temporary domination. It is daily becoming clearer that the present danger, which is threatening the country's existence and unity--although it appears to be emanating from inside the country and to be the consequence of the corruption and incompetence of governments over the past 25 years--is a monumental international conspiracy to weaken and, God forbid, to violate Iran's existence and sovereignty.

Before appearing in this sacred house I declared to everyone that if I became the prime minister of this country I would be a responsible prime minister and observe all parliamentary traditions and individual and social freedoms. If the honorable Majlis deputies, who supported my candidacy for prime minister in the majority vote, give my government their vote of confidence, you may be confident that the spirit and the letter of the constitution, which has an indissoluable bond with the Islamic religion, will always be honored.

As it has often been indirectly conveyed to the honorable Majlis deputies, I regard it as incumbent upon me and as a commitment to confront and neutralize--with the help of the inexhaustible might of faith, the support of the nation and the might of the army, which is one of the important pillars of the country's stability and independence--any plot or any individual or organization intending to infringe the Iranian nation's unity and entity.

My government is assuming responsibility as the obvious result of a revolution which has been in progress in the country during the past 2 years to eliminate the persistent infringements and unjustifiable atrocities which became commonplace in the country.

My government will always bear in mind the principles and objectives of the Iranian National Front and will endeavor to implement them.

At this juncture, when the state treasury is empty and most of the country's factories are closed, I ask you, members of public and honorable deputies to do whatever you can to reactivate the country's economic wheels which are the guarantee of the nation's independence and welfare.

A minimum chance must be granted to a government which, with the utmost sincerity and good intention, aims to work in accordance with the principles of the lofty Islamic teachings, the constitution and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and wants to steer Iran toward a progressive regime free from corruption and decay.

With the utmost respect I will now present the government's short-term program to the honorable Majlis deputies, and, in order to avoid verbosity, I will also distribute the government's detailed and long-term program to the honorable deputies.

The main points of the government's immediate program are as follows:

1. Dissolution of the State Organization for Security and Intelligence [SAVAK] and its replacement by an intelligence service serving the country's independence.

2. Swift trial of plunderers and violators of the nation's rights, either by the existing courts or by means of necessary legislation to be submitted to the two houses of parliament in order to create national courts with special powers.

3. Appointment of an impartial commission to investigate the past activities and service records of SAVAK agents and to hand over offenders to judiciary authorities for trial and punishment.

4. Release of all political prisoners, provided they are political prisoners. Those imprisoned in countravention of the constitution and the Iranian nation's rights by courts devoid of legitimacy must be released as soon as possible. In this connection it gives me great pleasure to inform the gentlemen that this very morning 68 people sentenced to life imprisonment were released.

5. Restoration of the reputation of all political prisoners since 19 August 1953.

6. Financial compensation from the government to all those political prisoners who have served more than 1 year and to those who have suffered or been disfigured for political offences.

7. Payment of appropriate compensation by the government to the dependents and under-age survivors of all those who have lost their lives in the so-called security jails.

8. Gradual abolition of martial law, while trying to win the cooperation of esteemed religious authorities in the cities under martial law. I would again like to inform the honorable gentlemen that martial law has been abolished in Fars Province. God willing, martial law will be abolished in yet another major province next week.

[Bakhtiar ceases to enumerate points]

Officially declaring those killed recently for political reasons as martyrs through the passage of legislation by the Majlis. Payments of compensation by the government to the families of martyrs and those who have lost a limb in the recent struggles.

Ending the strikes with the cooperation of the esteemed religious authorities, the intelligentsia, those with a mission [as heard], workers and industrialists.

Paving the way for close cooperation between the government and the spiritual community to enable the eminent ayatollah to supervise the proper conduct of affairs.

Repair of the recent destructions and reactivating the country's daily affairs. Reactivating the country's productive sectors and improving the economic situation.

Planning to prepare the ground for a free election at various levels, from village councils, to town councils, to free municipal elections and, finally, to the Majlis and senate elections.

6. [number as heard] Expulsion of all surplus foreign workers and unauthorized foreigners. At this point I would like to inform you that in the disturbances in front of the Tehran bazaar 2 days ago 190 Afghans, who were more or less all armed, were arrested. I ordered that they not be taken to the border and that they be tried and punished by Iranian courts.

Creating social security under the protection of the law.

As regards the government's foreign policy: This government's foreign policy is based on accurate appreciation of the domestic and international realities and on truthfulness in international relations and frankness in every way. It is based on these three principles, on the fact that the government is firmly determined to safeguard the Iranian nation's rights and interests, which include territorial integrity, unity, sovereignty and national security. The general guidelines of the government's foreign policy, which will be based on the foregoing principles, are as follows:

Strengthening and developing political, economic and cultural relations with Islamic countries. Maintaining and developing relations with all countries of the world, particularly neighboring countries, on the basis of mutual respect, noninterference in one another's affairs, peaceful coexistence with full regard to Iran's supreme interests.

In the light of the common features and ties shared between the Iranian nation and developing countries, the Iranian Government will work for developing relations with these countries.

In view of the fact that in the final analysis the realization of the Iranian nation's aspirations necessitates the existence of peace and calm in international relations, the Iranian Government will support any effort aimed at the elimination of international tensions. In other words, the government will act in a fully considered manner in international conflicts, and will not immaturely side with one against the other party to a conflict. We will not, as the saying goes, pull anyone's chestnuts out of the fire, and in the context of foreign problems and issues we will adopt a policy appropriate to Iran's true interests and in keeping with the declared principles of Iran's national policy.

The Iranian Government's policy is unconditional support for the UN Charter, the universal declaration of human rights and relevant commitments. The government will endeavor to achieve this inorder to protect and safeguard human rights and help realize the legitimate international demands aimed at removing the bonds of colonialism and its traces.

Without any regard for special considerations, the Iranian Government will take serious measures to eliminate racial discrimination and fight apartheid, which have been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations. Consequently the Iranian Government has decided to review its relations with South Africa, on the basis of resolutions approved by United Nations General Assembly, toward eliminating apartheid in any region. Subsequently, I shall stop, among other things, the sale of oil to South Africa.

As for the Middle East problem, the Iranian Government will express its total solicarity with its Arab brethren, and will fully support them, especially the Palestinian nation, in realizing their legitimate rights. As in the case of South Africa, we will stop the sale of oil to Israel. In order to implement the principles mentioned the government will have to completely reorganize its diplomatic institutions, so that it may carry out such a foreign policy. Furthermore, it will have to discard negative and positive [as heard] ideas as well as anything which weakens Iran's diplomacy; wastage of government appropriations and the undermining of orders by relations between people will also be removed. My government is determined to improve fundamentally the country's diplomatic organization and purge it on the basis of the principles outlined earlier in order to carry out its foreign policy and, making use of all possibilities which take time to explain, to equip it properly. My government undertakes to end the violation of laws and lack of observance for the legal provisions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and submit other bills for the approval of the legislature as soon as possible toward strengthening the said provisions, similar to other stipulated regulations.

As for internal policy: securing individual and social freedom, namely the freedoms of thought, expression, and the press, within the framework of the country's constitution; restoration of the status of the judiciary and its independence; noninterference by the government in commerce, except for planning, guidance and control; noninterference of the government in industry, except in oil, gas, radioactive matters and steel; the government's role in industry will take the form of planning, guidance and control; decentralization of the country's affairs and reorganization of governors' general offices to prepare them to respond effectively to this program; providing welfare for civil servants by adjusting salaries to a minimum livelihood as well as creating fringe benefits, while attempting to increase the efficiency of civil servants, consistent fight against corruption, whether in government or private sectors; scheduled planning and its implementation toward creating self-sufficiency in the country's agriculture which has gone with the wind; serious and all-embracing fight against inflation; effective implementation of the social security program and its correspondence with the government's objective programs.

Before presenting the details of the government's program, I would like to draw the attention of the honorable MP's to the following fundamental change in the ministries:

In order to prevent any unwarranted interference by the government in the affairs of universities, and in order to secure their true independence, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education will be abolished in my government; in its place, a department will be created in the prime minister's office in order to start planning for an establishing coordination between universities and institutes of higher education. Considering the requirements of the country's higher education institutes, the conference or this said department will study the situation, and a bill will be formulated with the help of the esteemed university professors and will be presented to the Majlis and the Senate.

To prevent any duplication and confusion of responsibilities the plan and budget organization's organization will be reviewed and reorganized, so that the organization might be prepared to meet the country's budget formulation needs and at the same time be controlled. In this case, too, a bill will be prepared with the help of planning experts to be submitted to the houses of parliament. This is what I explained in general terms and in detail to the gentlemen.

However, a point which must not be ignored is the truly tragic situation in the country. I have inherited a situation in whose creation I have had no part whatsoever. I have inherited a chaotic country and a haphazard organization. Over the past 25 years, I have gained nothing but imprisonment, exile and a sedentry position. Obviously, had the situation remained as it was a few years ago, I am certain I would not have been called upon to become prime minister. Therefore, I am asking in total humility from the honorable members of the Majlis for sincere cooperation, not for my own government, not for myself and not for my colleagues. I will continue the path of the past 25 years. I respect the constitution; however, for me this constitution is not the one implemented during these years. What I must do is prepare the independence of judiciary, and legislature as well as the motivation and purge of the executive power in order to meet the diverse economic problems of the country.

As for the final and very important problem in these critical situations, when an individual appears in front of the deputies with such a program, then neither he nor any such government can be called a repressive one. [sentence as heard]

In any case, today we need the army and the gendarmerie. I will attend to the extremely sad state of the police and, God willing, with your cooperation and that of the Iranian people I will resolve every single problem through patience, consistency and boldness. In this task, I beg your support and the prayers of their eminences and the favor of the prominentreligious leaders. I hope that in carrying out this task all my friends and acquaintances will help me.

In conclusion, with your permission, I will introduce the members of the cabinet:

I myself will also be responsible for the Ministry of Interior until such time when the situation in the police department and the gendarmerie is resolved and a qualified person is found.

Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Manuchehr Ariana; minister of state in charge of information and tourism, Dr Sirus Amuzegar;minister of mines and industry, Dr 'Abbasqoli Bakhtiar; minister of economic affairs and finance Dr Rostam Pirasteh; minister of war, General Ja'far Shafaqat; minister of health and welfare, Dr Manuchehr Razmara: minister of housing and urban development, Engineer Davad Khadam; minister of education and training, Dr Mohammad Amin Biahi; minister of post, telegraph and telephone, Engineer Lotfiali Samim; minister of agriculture and rural development, Manuchehr Kazemi; minister of justice, Yahya Sadeq-Vaziri; minister of foreign affairs, Ahmad Mir-Fendereski.

In conclusion, I wish to point out that none of these gentlemen have ever held a ministerial position during the past 25 years; had they taken part in any cabinet then there might have been objections to them. If there is any objection about any other issue, obviously I will answer it.

NEW FOREIGN MINISTER PLEDGES FRIENDSHIP WITH WEST

TA111818Y Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT 11 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, 11 Jan (AFP)--New Iranian Foreign Minister Ahmed Mir-Fendereski today pledged his country's continuing friendship with the West "so long as Western countries grasp the profound transformation underway in Iran."

Iran also wished to develop its friendship with Arab nations, which were bound to Iran by "indestructible" links of history and religion, Mr Mir-Fendereski told AFP. Turning to the permanent Israeli mission in Tehran, the minister said it was not official and dealt only with Israeli interests. "Its existence in no way contradicts our strong support for the Palestinians in their struggle to recover their legitimate rights," he said.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

LD111410Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] In Shiraz, demonstrators gathered in front of the U.S. Consulate in the city and brought down that country's flag while shouting anti-American slogans. The demonstration reached its height in one of the city's squares. The square was destroyed. [as heard] There were no clashes in these demonstrations.

Scattered demonstrations were also held last night and this morning in Ahvaz but the demonstrators were dispersed after intervention by security forces.

Demonstrations were staged in Kurosh Kabir Street in Rasht this morning. According to eyewitnesses, several people were arrested.

TEHRAN REPORTS ATTACK ON SHIRAZ SAVAK HEADQUARTERS

LD112142Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Text] According to our correspondent in Shiraz, following the demonstrations staged in that city today a number of demonstrators attacked the city's SAVAK headquarters and set it ablaze. In the course of ths attack there were clashes between the demonstrators and security forces resulting in some people being injured.

SIX PEOPLE KILLED IN SHIRAZ DEMONSTRATIONS

TA121148Y Paris AFP in English 121142 GMT 12 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 12 (AFP)--Six people died and 12 were injured during anti-shah demonstrations in Shiraz, south western Iran yesterday, Radio Tehran said today.

Shiraz is the only town to date where martial law has been lifted.

BAKHTIAR ISSUES WARNING ON DEMONSTRATIONS IN SHIRAZ

LD111806Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1715 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Following today's incidents in Shiraz during which demonstrators attacked a number of buildings and resorted to arson and destruction, Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, prime minister, in a telephone contact with the national Iranian radio and television organization said: [read by announcer]

As I stated at the beginning and announced in the government's program, one of the important objectives of the government is the gradual abolition of martial law where it is in force. As a first step, martial law was lifted in Shiraz 2 days ago. Despite the fact that both the government and their eminences [the ayatollahs] had asked the people to act in a peaceful and orderly way in order to confirm by their actions the lifting of the martial law, nevertheless, a group of anarchists, without paying any attention to the requests of their eminences and the government, today staged a violent demonstration and attacked a number of buildings, government offices, private companies and squares and resorted to destruction and fire.

While expressing sorrow over the action of this [word indistinct] group, it is thus declared that should certain groups of people continue with their destruction and attacking squares and buildings while taking advantage of abolition of the martial law, the government will then react to such actions most severely, according to its lawful duties.

STRIKE CAUSES REDUCED RADIO, TV PROGRAMMING

LD111858Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Text] National Iranian television programs will start tomorrow, Friday, at 1700 (1330 GMT). There were also shortened television transmissions today. As for news bulletins carried by the radio, they will be broadcast four times daily, at 0800, 1400, 2000 and 2400 [0430, 1030, 1630, 2030 GMT].

The reduction in radio and television program time is due to a general strike by our colleagues. Other contributing factors are power failures and the fuel shortage.

The Founding Council Union of National Iranian Radio and Television [NIRTV] employees, which embraces all the striking employees of the organization, today issued its fourth resolution. The resolution, praising the combative movement of the Iranian people as well as the Iranian people's legitimate goals, states that: The voice and profile of Iran--NIRTV--is (?not national), it is not the voice of revolution, nor is it popular or progressive. The statement then, citing the demands of the employees and their correspondence with the demands of the Iranian people's movement, adds: Only the predominance of the will of the people and the country will guarantee the freedom of expression, the abolition of censorship and the production of programs that will promote national culture and the enlightenment of public opinion in a way that is commensurate with the Iranian people's movement.

The resolution, referring to the radio and television workers and their mission, and while alluding to the fact that about 65 percent of the country's illiterate population is not able to receive [word indistinct] messages, sets out certain conditions for the striking employees' return to work, providing freedom of expression is already realized, censorship lifted and that the people's will dominates the organization. The resolution proposes that a committee consisting of representatives of the Iranian Authors Center, the Iranian Jurists Society, the National Organization of University Staff, the Society for Defense of Freedom and Human Rights and the Founding Council Union of NIRTV employees supervise the broadcasting of news and information by radio and television. [passage indistinct]

In conclusion the council's resolution states that the organization's (?technical) structure is not appropriate to its true role and that there is a need for new structuring.

AYATOLLAH KHOMEYNI RECEIVES FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

LD111025Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Ayatollah Khomeyni, the religious leader of the Iranian opposition, this morning received one of the directors of the French Foreign Ministry at the ayatollah's residence at Pontchartrain. The interview lasted 80 minutes.

KHOMEYNI DELEGATION URGES KHUZESTAN OIL, GAS WORKERS TO RESUME WORK

LD1114152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 79 LD

[Text] A delegation visiting Khuzestan on behalf of His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, and headed by Engineer Mehdi Bazargan and Engineer Hasibi, has issued two further statements following the negotiations and the necessary investigations. The delegation's statement No 9 says: In view of the fact that the delegation's necessary (?conditions) have been fulfilled and arrangements to prevent oil being exported from the country have been made, and in order to secure the crude oil needed by the Tehran, Abadan and Tabriz refineries and the gas needed for domestic consumption--particularly in Shiraz, where all the city's basic needs, including reactivating the city's refinery, depend on gas--the hardworking workers of the Ahvaz No 2 unit and the Marun No 2 unit are asked to return to work and carry out their responsibility with the utmost care and dedication. Meanwhile, should the Ahvaz No 2 unit prove unable to secure the stocks required by the Ahvaz NGL-600 [gas liquifaction plant]--the Ahvaz No 4 unit will also be activated. At the same time minimum personnel needed to carry out related nonindustrial operations and for maintenance, repair and protection against possible damage, will be used.

Statement No 10 signed by Engineer Bazargan says: In view of the fact that the necessary conditions required to activate the sale and distribution of Khuzestan gas--which is supplied by the Ahvaz No 2 unit--no longer apply, the dear and esteemed workers of the Khuzestan gas sale and distribution plant are asked to return to work and carry out their work with great dedication.

KHOMEYNI GIVES INTERVIEW TO RADIO LUXEMBOURG

AU1116202 Rome ANSA in English 1535 GMT 11 Jan 79 AU

[Text] Paris, January 11 (ANSA)--The Islamic republic that Shi'ite religious leaders plan to set up in Iran will belong to the non-aligned group and will maintain friendly relations with all those nations who desire such ties, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni said today in an interview to Radio Luxembourg.

The Iranian religious leader in exile in Paris added that he has never had, nor never will have contacts with either the Iranian communist party nor with the Kremlin.

He told the interviewer that the departure of the shah from Iran without abdication would do nothing to change the present situation in Iran. Everything belonging to the old, illegal regime must be done away with, he said.

The government, the Parliament, and the Ruling Council are all illegal, he insisted. A condition to restoring peace to Iran is the suppression of these illegally created institutions, he said.

In the meantime, it was learned that the director of administrative affairs at the Quai d'Orsay, Claude Chayet, went again yesterday to Neauphle le Chateau, outside Paris, where Khomeyni is living to remind him that as a foreigner he must refrain from political activity while in France.

SANJABI DISCUSSES ILLEGALITY OF BAKHTIAR GOVERNMENT

LD111253Y Paris LE MONDE in French 11 Jan 79 pp 1, 4 LD

[Jean Gueyras dispatch: "Bakhtiar Convinced That Shah Will Leave the Country 'In Next Few Days!"]

[Text] Tehran--Speaking to about 100 journalists packed into two adjoining rooms in his villa at Niavaran Tuesday 9 January, National Front Secretary General Karim Sanjabi issued a veritable declaration of war against Mr Bakhtiar's new government which he described as "illegal."

"The shah and his protectors," he said, "have failed to understand that the Iranian people do not want a change of pawn or prime minister but a fundamental transformation of power restoring the nation's sovereignty. Iran's fate must be decided in Tehran, not in Washington, London or Moscow." Mr Sanjabi said that he was prepared to lead a "provisional government" which met the demands of the "revolutionary situation," "if the people asked him to and if he had Ayatollah Khomeyni's agreement." He refused to give any further details on that subject, which has apparently not been discussed.

However, the National Front secretary general was anxious to stress that first "the shah must leave once and for all."

In that context he ruled out any participation by a National Front representative in the regency council which might be formed before the sovereign leaves and he suggested the alternative solution of a national council "created by national consensus and with the religious authorities' agreement."

Subsequently front spokesman Foruhahr told us that such a council would not be formed unless the shah left and that it would be appointed by Ayatollah Khomeyni "in whom we have complete confidence." He indicated that there was no possibility of such a council coexisting with a possible regency council created by the regime.

Uncertainty Remains

"The present regime," he said, "must go or submit to the people's will. Once that has been achieved, the national council will be formed and its first task will be to form a provisional government with the job of supervising the choice of the future system of government through an assembly elected by universal suffrage."

Meanwhile, there is still the utmost uncertainty about the sovereign's "vacation plans," maintaining the country in a climate of unrest. Certain people in palace circles have hinted that any possible departure by the shah would not take place before the two houses of parliament have passed a vote of confidence in the new government, in other words not before Monday. However, it is no secret that other members of the royal entourage are doing everying possible to convince the shah that his departure would be "catastrophic" for the country's future. According to the TEHRAN JOURNAL, Mr Zahedi, Iranian ambassador to Washington and a personal friend of the sovereign, has categorically stated that "the shah will not leave." Zahedi, who has spent more time in Tehran than in Washington since the crisis in Iran became more serious 4 months ago, has apparently told his friends that he is considering resigning as ambassador to devote himself entirely to palace affairs.

However, according to certain well-informed sources, U.S. Gen Robert Huyser, who for the past week has been pursuing a mission related to the problem of reducing the number of U.S. military advisers in Iran, is trying to persuade Iranian military circles that only the shah's departure can save the regime and the "Bakhtiar experiment."

On Tuesday evening the new government chief confirmed the defection of his Defense Minister General Jam. The latter has not yet given the reasons behind his gesture but it is thought that he was motivated by a disagreement over the defense minister's competence in view of the fact that defense minister was hitherto mainly an honorary title. General Jam apparently wanted a say in appointing and controlling the activities of the three armed forces commanders, thus placing them directly under his orders. However, the shah wants to keep--or give the regency council if he were to leave the country temporarily--control over the army. That quarrel contributed to Mr Sadiqi's failure to form a government some 2 weeks ago. Furthermore the shah has just appointed one of his loyal supporters to the post of army commander in chief, namely Gen (Abdolali Badrehi) [as published] imperial guard commander and advocate of strong-arm tactics.

There are growing rumors about the possibility of a military coup. They have even spread to the newspapers. In an article entitled "The Coup d'Etat: the most important current problem" Tuesday evening's edition of ETTELA'AT write that those rumors look increasingly like a "warning" and that Mr Bakhtiar is beginning to take them seriously.

The warning also seems to have been heeded by the ayatollahs and the various secular opposition organizations which are increasingly issuing appeals denouncing attacks on the homes of SAVAK members and soldiers and the summary executions and summary justice methods. When they bought their newspapers Tuesday, Iranians had the unpleasant shock of seeing a front-page photograph of an Afghan hanging from a pole above an "angry crowd" in Karshak some 12 km south of Tehran. He was suspected of stealing and had been sentenced to death by a "people's court" and immediately strung up in the streets. Three other Afghans suffered the same fate in the soutnern districts of the city.

Without referring to those latest summary executions, Mr Bakhtiar told the newspaper ETTELA'AT Tuesday that 200 Afghan "communists" had been arrested during the recent anti-government demonstrations in the southern districts of the capital while "inciting the population to commit acts of looting and violence." Mr Bakhtiar added that he would not "allow a group of Afghans to import Red revolution, death and terror into the country." Are the Afghans going to become Iran's new scapegoats?

SANJABI DOES NOT EXPECT COUP IN IRAN

TA081602Y Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 8 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Paris, Jan 8 (AFP)--Karim Sanjabi, head of the Iranian National Front, the main political opposition group, said today he did not expect a military coup in Iran, but "anything is possible."

Interviewed in Tehran by French radio, Mr Sanjabi said that the link between the National Front and the Shi'ite Moslem opposition was "a very desirable solution" for the Iranians and presented "no danger." "Ninety-eight percent of Iranians are Moslem," he said. "Their government must therefore of necessity be Islamic, and I think there is no great difference on this subject between what I say and what Ayatollah Khomeyni says.

"If there is a coup d'etat in Iran, it will be tragic, but it will be a victory neither for those who carried out the coup d'etat nor for those who supported it."

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN WARNS OF U.S.-RUN COUP D'ETAT

TA112205 [Editorial Report TA] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 11 January carries what appears to be a commentary on the situation in Iran. Initial remarks apparently focus on U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Iran and U.S. preparations to send its fleet into Iranian waters. The commentary goes on to say:

"Dear fellow countrymen, [words indistinct] America is trying with all its strength to frustrate the sacred revolution of the people of our country against the filthy and despotic regime of the shah. The deputy commander of the forces of the United States of America [as heard], General Huyser, has been in [words indistinct] for several days. [Words indistinct] and has had contacts and discussions with the Iranian military. Initially, he was to come to our nation for only a short period. Now, [words indistinct] he has extended his stay in Iran. It is said that the basic purpose of his [words indistinct] (?is to prepare for a military coup d'etat).

"At the order of Carter [words indistinct] the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States of America are continuing their aggression and interference in the internal affairs of our nation. This is an undeniable reality that has been both witnessed by the people of our nation themselves and recognized by the American press.

"At the order of Carter, the U.S. President, the Pentagon has doubled the number of warships in the Arabian Sea [as heard] and near the frontiers of our nation. Among others, the names of the missile firing destroyer [navshekane-e mushekandaz] (?Peter Owen) and the destroyer [navshekan] (?Tompeck) can be mentioned.

"Since the end of the month of Aban [Iranian month ending 21 Nov] this year, the Americans have sent their missile firing cruisers [razmnavha-ye mushekandaz] named (?Frits), (?Quel) and (?Friendly) to [passage indistinct] have taken under their own supervision. Despite all this, the American naval bases [navgan-e daryai amrika] have systematically prepared the aircraft carrier Constellation, the missile firing ship (Degin) [nav-e mushekandaz-e degin] and several other ships [havha-ye imzade degar] which are ready to sail [words indistinct]."

The commentary then says something to the effect that some U.S. forces have been dispatched or have been prepared to be dispatched from Saudi Arabia to Iran, and notes:

"These are aspects of the dangerous war plots of the United States against [words indistinct] the sacred revolution of the people of our nation (fighting) against the filthy regime of the shah. The people of Iran are eyewitnesses to the open and crude interference of the Americans in the internal affairs of our nation by means of tens of thousands of military advisers and spys. They have plainly seen how U.S. circles are trying even at the cost of [words indistinct] to save the filthy regime of the shah (?and to preserve their own interests in Iran). The decision of the Americans to prepare a plan for a military coup d'etat [words indistinct].

"The leader of the Iranian National Front, Dr Karim Sanjabi, while commenting on the probability [ehtemal] of a military coup d'etat by the United States of America in Iran said: A military coup d'etat would be a great disaster for the Iranian nation."

INDIA

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON HONECKER'S VISIT

BK111535Y Delhi ISI in English 1444 GMT 11 Jan 79 BK

[Joint statement on 8-12 January visit to India by Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee, chairman of the GDR Council of State]

[Text] At the invitation of the president of the Republic of India, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic [GDR] His Excellency Erich Honecker paid an official visit to India from 8 to 11 January 1979.

Erich Honecker laid a wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi and also attended a civic reception at the Red Fort given in his honour by the mayor of Delhi on behalf of the people of Delhi. Honecker, accompanied by members of his party, also visited Agra and Bombay to acquaint themselves with the culture of India and the pace of India's industrial, economic and scientific development.

During his stay in Delhi, Honecker called on President of India N. Sanjiva Reddy and had a friendly discussion with him.

Honecker, the general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of GDR Council of State, had official discussions with Prime Minister of India Morarji Desai. During these talks the two leaders were assisted by: from the Indian side: Jagjivan Ram, minister of defence; Atal Bihari Vajpayee, minister of external affairs; George Fernandes, minister of industry; Mohan Dharia, minister of commerce, civil supplies and cooperation; Purushottam Lal Kaushik, minister of tourism and civil aviation; Samarendra Kundu, minister of state in the Ministry of External Affairs; Arif Geg, minister of state in the Ministry of Commerce, Civil Suppies and Cooperation; Shankar, principal secretary of the prime minister; J.S. Mehta, foreign secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs; U.S. Bajpai, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs; V. Krishnamurthy, secretary in the Department of Heavy Industry in the Ministry of Industry; C.R. Krishnaswami Rao Sahib, secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation; A.R. Deo, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs; Roy Axel Khan, ambassador of India to the GDR.

From the GDR side: Willi Stoph, member of the Political Bureau of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers; Hermann Axen, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the SED Central Committee; Guenter Mittag, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the SED Central Committee; Gerhard Weiss, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers; cochairman of the India-GDR Joint Economic Commission; Oskar Gischer, minister of foreign affairs; Klaus Willerding, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Heinz Sachse, deputy minister of foreign trade; Martin Bierbach, head of the South and South East Asia Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Heinz Birch, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the GDR to the Republic of India.

The official talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and close understanding. Desai and Honecker discussed bilateral relations as well as international issues of mutual interest. They noted with satisfaction broad identity of views on the subjects discussed and reaffirmed their conviction that the friendly relations between the two countries would be strengthened in the interest of their peoples, thus enhancing the cause of world peace.

Desai and Honecker were gratified to note that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in October 1972 Indian-GDR cooperation had diversified considerably. They viewed the increase in economic and industrial cooperation as reflected in the volume and diversification of trade and were confident that these exchanges would grow rapidly in the coming years. They recalled with satisfaction the long-standing traditions of Indian-German cultural relations and expressed the view that the further development of cultural links would strengthen the close understanding between the two countries and peoples.

During the visit the two sides concluded the following agreements:

(1) A long-term agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the GDR on economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation.

(2) An agreement between the Government of Republic of India and Government of the GDR on cooperation in the field of merchant shipping.

In their review of the international situation, the two leaders agreed that there was tangible relaxation of tensions in Europe and noted that the European treaties and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe had made a valuable contribution to detente.

They reaffirmed their conviction that there is no reasonable alternative to the process of detente based upon the principles of peaceful coexistence. They expressed their desire to see this process deepened, extended to other regions of the globe and made irreversible.

The two sides called for an end to the arms race and took note of the various talks and negotiations under way towards this end. They expressed the hope that these would come to a speedy conclusion, thereby contributing to the process of detente and disarmament. The resources and energies released through the process of disarmament should be rechannelled into the all round development efforts of nations, particularly among the developing countries. India and the GDR were firmly convinced that in our age the goal of all disarmament efforts should be the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, with the highest priority being accorded to nuclear disarmament. They urged the prohibition of the manufacture of all types of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, including new types and systems of such weapons. They called for a reduction leading to eventual elimination of the existing stockpiles of such weapons and for an early conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Both sides agreed that the special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament had yielded positive results and emphasised the necessity to achieve early binding agreements on disarmament. Both sides expressed themselves in favour of convening a world disarmament conference.

The two sides reiterated their support for converting the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace in keeping with the wishes of littoral states and to the benefit of all peoples of the world. They expressed the hope that the bilateral talks between the USSR and the United States which had been suspended nearly a year ago would be resumed without further delay and brought to a speedy and successful conclusion which could contribute to the realisation of the UN General Assembly resolution on the implementation of the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

Reviewing the situation in South Asia, the two leaders welcomed the recent positive developments in the region including the resolution of long-standing problems through bilateral negotiations. They believed that the process was a proof of the desire of the countries of the region to establish an atmosphere of peace, good neighbourliness and mutually beneficial cooperation. They were convinced that increasing regional cooperation would serve the interests of the people of these countries by contributing to greater stability and economic development and thus to peace in Asia and the world.

The two sides wholeheartedly supported the endeavours of the peoples of Southeast Asia to live in an atmosphere of peace and cooperation. In this context they welcomed the improvement of relations between countries of Indochina and countries of ASEAN and Burma. They expressed their support to the task of national reconstruction of the war-ravaged economies of the states of Indochina and hoped that the energies of the people who had emerged victorious after a long struggle for independence would not be deflected from this pressing task. Both sides expressed their concern at the tensions that had recently surfaced in Southeast Asia and desired that all outstanding issues should be resolved bilaterally through peaceful negotiations and without outside interference in the spirit of the universally accepted principles of peaceful coexistence.

The two sides reaffirmed their conviction that mutually beneficial cooperation among Asian states must be developed and extended in order to consolidate peace and stability in the region. They stressed that interstate relations should rest on principles such as the right of each people to choose their own political system, renunciation of the use of force or threat of force, respect for sovereignty and the inviolability of frontiers, noninterference in internal affairs and cooperation in economic and other fields on the basis of full equality and mutual benefit. Acceptance of these principles in interstate relations would contribute to the transformation of Asia into a continent of durable peace and to the strengthening of peace in the whole world.

The two sides took note of recent developments in west Asia and of the efforts of the states concerned towards the achievement of a lasting peace in the region. They felt that a just and durable solution could only be achieved in accordance with the UN resolutions through complete withdrawal by Israel from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to their own state, and the right of all states in the region to live in peace within recognised borders. The two sides called for full implementation of the UN resolutions concerning the restoration of peace and stability to west Asia.

The two sides declared their resolve to continue their support to the just struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against colonial domination and racial discrimination. They reiterated their condemnation of the policy of apartheid and called for the strict enforcement of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations against the illegal regimes in Zimbabwe and the Republic of South Africa. The two sides further called for the immediate and unconditional transfer of power to the legitimate representatives of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia.

India and the GDR recognised the value of the nonaligned movement as positive factor in international relations and assessed highly its contribution to world peace and to the struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

They appreciated the consistent stand taken by the members of nonaligned movement on the question of the establishment of equitable and just economic relations between the members of the world community. The two sides believed that in accordance with the declaration and programme of actions on the establishment of a new international economic order such relations should be conducted on the basis of respect for national sovereignty, the equiality of states and of mutual benefit.

India and the GDR agreed to work further towards enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations in ensuring lasting peace and strengthening international security. They agreed to support all measures adopted to implement these goals in strict accordance with the UN Charter.

India and the GDR are convinced that the first official visit of the general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, Erich Honecker, to the Republic of India signals a new and important phase in the cordial relations that exist between India and the GDR. They believe that the friendly and constructive exchange of views between the leaders of the two countries contributed to the consolidation of Indian-GDR relations and provides a further impetus to their accelerated development.

The general secretary of SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State thanked the president and prime minister of the Republic of India for the cordial reception and the warm hospitality accorded to him and his party during their visit to India. He extended invitations to the president and prime minister of India to pay official visits to the GDR. The invitations were accepted with pleasure.

[Signed] Morarji Desai, prime minister of the Republic of India;

Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR.

Honecker Concludes Visit

BK120928Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The president of the German Democratic Republic, Mr Honecker, left Bombay for home this morning at the end of his 5-day state visit to India. He was given a warm send-off at the Santa Cruz Airport by the Maharashtra governor, Mr Sadiq Ali; the chief minister, Mr Sharad Pawar; and others.

AFP: DEFENSE MINISTER DENIES EXPANSION OF ARMED FORCES

OW112136Y Paris AFP in English 2120 GMT 11 Jan 79 OW

[Text] New Delhi, 11 Jan (AFP)--Defence Minister J. Ram today denied that India was expanding its armed forces.

He said an impression had grown in the world that Indian Armed Forces were being expanded in strength and that this was "incorrect." What was actually being done was their modernisation through steps such as replacement of obsolete equipment, he said.

India's decision last October to acquire the Anglo-French deep penetration strike aircraft, Jaguar, had reportedly touched off a feeling abroad that this was part of a plan to enhance the armed forces' strength. It has been officially claimed that Jaguar was being procured to replace some of the aircraft like Canberra which have become obsolete.

He said the cost of equipping the armed forces might, however, go up because of the increasing prices of sophisticated military hardware in the world market. "So far we have kept the defence budget within four percent of our GNP. We may not be able to do this any more because of rising prices."

Mr. Ram declined to comment on a report that the U.S. was likely to supply sophisticated armaments and aircraft to Pakistan, India's neighbour. He said he had no such information and as such would not comment on it. At the same time he expressed the hope that the U.S. administration would honour the assurance it had given to India not to disturb the military balance in the subcontinent.

SITUATION IN ASSAM-NAGALAND QUIET AFTER 5 JAN CLASHES

BK120412Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The situation on the Assam-Nagaland border is now well under control. This was stated by the governor of the northeastern states, Mr L.P. Singh, in Calcutta while on his way to New Delhi. He told newsmen that no underground Nagas were involved in last Friday's border incident.

As for the proposed talks between the underground Nagas and the Nagaland Peace Council, the governor indicated that the talks are likely to take place at (?Pongsa) in the third week of this month. The Nagaland chief minister, Mr Vizol, also told newsmen in Calcutta that police forces of both the states are conducting joint operations on the border. There is no fresh incident, he added. Nine persons carrying lethal weapons have been arrested in the (?Uriumghar) sector of the Assam-Nagaland border. With this, 48 persons have so far been arrested.

Meanwhile, relief operations in the affected areas are going on in full swing.

SRI LANKA

CAMBODIAN REQUEST ON POL POT OFFICIALS NOT RECEIVED

BK120948Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 12 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Colombo, 12 Jan (AFP)--Sri Lanka, chairman of the nonaligned movement, has not received any message from the Kampuchean (Cambodia) People's Revolutionary Council urging the expulsion of representatives of the Pol Pot government from the movement, a Foreign Office spokesman said today.

The Vietnamese mission in New York has, however, handed over to the Sri Lankan mission there a rough translation of such a message which had been reported by the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY the spokesman said. Sri Lanka newspapers today spotlighted agency reports of the message quoting the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY.

The message was reported to have been sent to Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed by Hun Sen, who is in charge of foreign relations in the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council.